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History of Micheldever

To

Frances Lilian Milner

HISTORY OF MICHELDEVER

By

ALFRED B. MILNER, B.A.

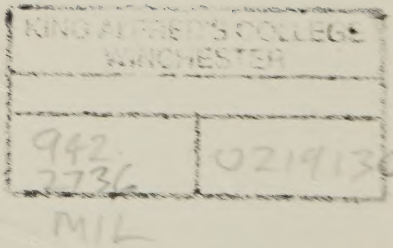
Vicar of

Micheldever-cum-Stratton.

PARIS

HERBERT CLARKE, 338, RUE SAINT-HONORÉ.

1924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PREFACE

"Micheldever is the old home of my wife's people; please scrub their tombs". This flippant message reached me when first I came to the parish in 1917. The tombs were not scrubbed, for they could not be found, though ultimately faint traces of the surname wanted were discovered on a stone which covers a vault-opening in the nave of the Church. I could find in the parish, moreover, no old house suited to what I supposed was the dignity of the family in question and no one seemed able to supply any but the vaguest guesses as to its position or any information whatever as to the family —save what might be gathered from a memorial stone in the Church. Other attempts to get at the past were equally unsuccessful. It seemed incumbent upon some one to dig out the history of the parish and make it accessible to all who wished to know it. I therefore set my hand to the task —a more formidable one than I suspected.

It must not be supposed that all that is known or can be known concerning the parish is here set down. Much is omitted which some may wish to hear about and much included perhaps which others may think superfluous. There is, no doubt, ample scope for another to supplement and polish this record.

Difficult words have sometimes been dodged, and items of general history included and explanations given which may seem to some readers unnecessary. But I have a hope that even the school children may thus be induced to read, and so gain some knowledge of happenings within their own gates, as it were.

The attempt to write a local history has great fascination. You find a pearl of great (local) price—perhaps hidden in the will of a small farmer in the sixteenth century or tucked away in a mouldy manuscript behind a heap of lumber in an attic ; or in the corner of an old estate map or under a rubbish heap in somebody's garden or in a rabbit scrape or the mud of a farm yard pond ; or—and here the pearl must go—carved on a stone high up in the Church tower or on a leaden coffin low down in a vault.

I have to acknowledge with most grateful thanks the kindness of Lord Northbrook who gave me unrestricted access to his Library and trusted to my care old manuscripts, deeds and maps.

I am greatly indebted also to Miss Evelyn Bristow and the Rev. W. E. Bristow for details of family history and the loan of papers and letters. Also to the Dean of Winchester for valuable and kindly help ; to the Rev. G. Sampson for photographs of Church plate, etc. ; to Miss Christabel Milner for much labour in typewriting. Also to Canon Braithwaite for permission to reproduce from his "Hampshire Church Plate", descriptions of Church plate at Micheldever and Stratton.

In parts of this book I owe much to Seebohm's "English Village Community," *Walter Money's* "A Perfect Boke" *and Hearnshaw's* "Leet Jurisdiction." "The Victoria County History" (*herein referred to by its initials V.C.H.*) *has often*

afforded a "jumping off" place, though occasionally I have arrived at a different goal.

The Rev. M. J. Simmonds and Brig.-Gen. F. S. Derham, C.B., have helped me much by reading the manuscript and making corrections and suggestions. Mrs. R. H. Scott Hamilton has placed me under great obligation by most kindly reading the proofs—no light labour.

Micheldever, Oct. 1923.

A. B. M.

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CHAPTER I

EARLY DAYS

THE present ecclesiastical parish of Micheldever-cum Stratton comprises about 10,000 acres and to "beat the bounds" would involve a tramp of over twenty miles. Until comparatively recent times Popham and Swarraton were also within the boundaries of the parish. The 1300 people which the parish at present numbers are gathered in the main in the villages of Micheldever, Micheldever Station and East Stratton and the hamlets of West Stratton and Weston. The three villages are distant from one another about 2½ miles. When the L. & S. W. railway was built (about 1839) the local Station was carefully placed at a spot where the population could not have numbered more than 30-40 and almost as far removed as possible from the majority. The railway enters the parish at the north-east and runs right through it in a slightly south-westerly direction, being carried over the valley of the stream on a long and lofty embankment which completely cuts off the view from the village to the west. At a mean distance of a mile and a half to the eastward and roughly parallel all the way runs the Roman road from Winchester to Silchester.

Micheldever village lies, as the crow flies, about seven miles from Winchester and eleven from Basingstoke. Of the numerous ways in which the name is pronounced only one is correct, viz: Mitch-el-dever—all the e's being short and the accent falling on the first syllable of dever. Specialists may be left to debate the vexed question of the origin of the name. It is said to mean "much water". At present the only obvious water is a small stream which rises in Stratton Park, about two miles away, and runs through the village, separating at this point the hamlet of Northbrook from that of Southbrook. At its entrance to the village it broadens out into several ponds now used as watercress beds and is fed by springs. Chaldwell Springs is a very old name for the area now covered by these ponds. In Keltic, Roman and Saxon days, before the ponds were artificially banked, the neighbourhood was probably of a very marshy character but not, we should think, sufficiently so to warrant the name—"Muchwater"! The stream would appear to have no name, though Dr. G. B. Grundy of Oxford, considers that its name is "Micheldever". (*Hants Field Club Proceedings. Vol IX. Part 2. p.* 230.)

Micheldever may boast of a pedigree as long, if not as distinguished, as that of London or any other place in the British Isles. The finding of flint implements—arrow heads, etc.,—in the fields, the remains of a Roman Villa in the Wood, the discovery of numerous Saxon relics at the time when the railway was built, and written history since Alfred's reign all point to continuous occupation from prehistoric days.

There are two round barrows reputed to be of the Bronze age period (1900-500, B.C.) in Micheldever Wood—or rather, the remains of them. For they have been much

mutilated by the spades of treasure seekers or of archaeologists in quest of bones or pots. If any systematic attempt was ever made to unveil their secrets no record of it survives. The writer has found a considerable number of potsherds in the smaller barrow—but all of them of the Roman-British period. There is a prehistoric hill fort at Norsbury in the extreme west of the parish (see page 7).

The Romans occupied the southern part of Britain from about A.D. 40 till about 400 and their engineers would soon be busy on the Roman road previously mentioned. A Roman bronze brooch of early date was found by Mr. Geoffrey Pain on Borough farm, near the Down cottages, in May 1922, and a coin of Constantine the Great was dug up in the (then) Vicarage garden in 1920. A much more important memorial exists in Micheldever Wood in the shape of a Roman villa. (The "villa" originally meant the estate but usage has now attached it to the house.) It was probably built by a British country gentleman accustomed to Roman habits and culture who farmed the land in the neighbourhood. From the date of some of the coins found on the site the house would appear to have been occupied as late at any rate as the year 380. Thirty years later the Romans were called away to defend their own country, and in the troublous times which followed, the house may have been destroyed. The remains would be gradually covered by vegetation and all memory of it would fade away.

About 1844 a keeper named Fifield, when passing through the Wood on his lawful occasions, noticed a few coins scratched out of a rabbit burrow. The place was dug and the workers disclosed foundations of a wall made of flint and "slates" (flat stones). The lower layer was of flint placed upon the chalk soil ; upon this was laid

a coating of mortar and upon the mortar a course of "slates". In this mortar, mixed up with it, were found at least 1400 brass coins of the kind called third brass—bronze coins of low value. Some of these proved to be of the reigns of Gratian, Theodosius and Arcadius—at the end of the 4th century. Foundations of walls were found in all directions, as were fragments of Roman bricks and flue-tiles and pottery.

A writer in the Archaeological Journal (June 1846) says that the remains were "evidently those of a very considerable Roman villa. The site may be very distinctly traced by inequalities of the ground. which from being in a wood have hitherto escaped notice. The people employed in the wood had long observed that in the immediate neighbourhood the soil was very different from that of the rest of the wood. It appears to be artificial and I should think brought from a distance. For it seems to be a black loam, whilst the surrounding soil is a thin vegetable mould upon chalk".

There is a considerable quantity of this black soil, so much indeed as to make unlikely the suggestion that it was brought from elsewhere. It would rather seem to have taken its colour from the fact that it was the site of the local rubbish heap or possibly of pottery kilns. It contains quantities of potsherds. Apparently no plans of the foundations were made during the excavations and no descriptions of the pottery were left on record which is much to be regretted.

The site is one to break the heart of an excavator. It is covered with trees and bushes, with the result that work is constantly impeded by roots of all lengths and sizes. By pottering at intervals and without doing any systematic digging on a large scale, the writer has unearthed evi-

dence which adds considerably to previous knowledge. A light bow-shaped brooch, minus its pin, Mr. Reginald Smith pronounces as first century, circa A.D. 60, and a piece of Samian bowl with potter's mark (ending llio) as being from the workshop of Maxtullus (a potter at Lezoux in central France) and made about the year A.D. 160. Also two third-brass coins of Constantine (circa 320). These remains, together with the coins already mentioned, would seem to indicate continuous occupation throughout the Roman period. Another interesting find is a deer antler which was evidently in use as a pick. The area covered by the remains is of very considerable extent and the heavy roof tiles of Purbeck stone point to a substantial house. The site might well reward scientific investigation if the necessary money were forthcoming.

At the moment going to press, the writer has discovered evidence of Roman-British occupation in a stubble field immediately West of Baseley coppice on Mr. John Pain's farm.

To the Romans the Saxons succeeded. They drove the bulk of the old British people into Wales and called them "Welsh"—"foreigners". (The English practice of going into another country and there calling the inhabitants foreigners is evidently of great antiquity.) When the invaders had settled down here they became known collectively as Angles or Anglo-Saxons or English. The British generally called them Saxons.

The Saxons were pagan. Whether Christianity had obtained anything more than a precarious footing in Britain before the withdrawal of the Romans is disputed but no doubt the flood of Saxon invasion overwhelmed it, at any rate in the country districts. This part of Hampshire did not again become Christian in fact or in name till about 625. The intervening period, presents a practic-

ally unwritten page to the historian—as regards North Hampshire at least. Only a few remains which can with certainty be assigned to that period have, so far, been unearthed in the locality. But Micheldever can claim a share of them.

From the Archaeological Journal (Vol. 6, p. 399) it appears that, when the railway was in course of construction at Micheldever, numerous ancient remains were found at Weston farm. These included a fibula (a brooch), three glass beads, swords, spear-heads, knives, bosses of shields, helmets, urns, and numerous skeletons. The writer of the article thought that these remains marked the site of a battle in early Saxon times and he connected it with the prehistoric camp at Norsbury about a mile to the west of the spot. His theory was that, perhaps before their defences were completed, the garrison at Norsbury was suddenly attacked, driven out of its entrenchments and slaughtered near what is now the railway embankment. This theory seems to overlook the probability that Norsbury Camp was made ages before the coming of the Saxons. Further, the urns were most likely sepulchral urns and point to leisurely burial. The workmen would seem to have hit upon a Saxon cemetery—probably on the spot now called the Gullet—near the Weston railway arch. Unfortunately the great majority of the relics have been scattered and lost. But a pair of bronze tweezers, a couple of beads, a silver wire ring and an iron spear-head are preserved in the British Museum, Iron Age Gallery, Case D. They are labelled :—"From graves on Weston farm, Micheldever, Hants. Given by Greville Chester, Esq. 1854". The authorities put the date of these relics as about A.D. 600. Probably there were considerable settlements of Saxons in these dry, chalky uplands and the

soil may still hold many secrets. Once more we have to lament the fact that the exact locality of the "cemetery" is not told us and there is no detailed description of what was discovered.

The fibula which was found is also in the British Museum —Room of Roman-British, Case C. It is labelled "Found in a railway cutting at Micheldever 1847—a bronze Roman brooch once inlaid with enamel". It is a really good specimen of its kind and its date is given as about A.D. 120.

It may be well here to give some account of Norsbury Ring. It lies just within the western boundary of the parish of Micheldever and about three quarters of a mile from the spot where the Saxon remains were (probably) found. There may have been some connection between the two in Saxon days. Norsbury (1) is a typical plateau-fort on a chalk hill running east and west, and about three hundred feet above sea-level. The view is open in all directions except towards the east—the direction of the supposed cemetery. The fort is circular in shape and contains about eight acres. The ditch can still be traced on the west, and on the north where it has a bank five feet high. The south-eastern half of the circle has been completely ploughed away, only the faintest depression being now traceable. It was this fact, no doubt, which led the local Secretary of the Archaeological Society (in 1849) to suppose that the fort had not been completed at the time of the (suggested) Saxon defeat. There is no record of any finds there, but George Gamble, of Micheldever, assured the writer that some years ago he saw, at a house in Weston, some swords which

(1) *Field Archæology*, Dr. Williams Freeman.

had been ploughed up in a field near the Ring. These might, of course, have been modern.

The fact that Saxon remains have been found on Weston farm makes one cast a curious eye upon another farm, also lying against the railway—as it happens—though on the Eastern side. This is Borough farm—a name which would of itself raise expectations. Close to the edge of this farm—possibly once on a time part of the farm—lies Bury Hill, from which it probably got its name. The name Bury Hill can be traced back some hundreds of years but it has passed out of modern use and the hill has at present no name at all. So far as is known nothing of interest has been unearched on the site. Who knows what historical treasures it may contain? There is another Bury Hill on the eastern edge of Stratton Park, behind the School. They await a millionaire with a golden spade.

After the departure of the Romans our local history for the next 500 years is to be found only in the Saxon remains just mentioned. Our written history begins in the days of Alfred the Great. His kingdom of Wessex (West Saxons) had its capital in Winchester where he held his court in Wolvesey Palace. In the days of Alfred, Micheldever was a royal vill—the King's own personal property. Seeing that he was very frequently in Winchester we may reasonably assume that he paid one or more visits to the village in which he had a personal interest, especially as it lay so close to the "army path" or highway along which he must so often have ridden. Did he hold a Court in the Moot House and did he build a Church for the benefit of his tenants? The "Golden Charter" (Kemble. Codex Dipl. 336) states that a Church existed at Micheldever in the year 903. This Charter is probably spurious but it is

quite possible that the statement as to the Church is true.

Alfred had decided to build a new monastery in Winchester but death prevented him. His wish was carried out by his son Edward the Elder who, in accordance with Alfred's will, gave to the monks of the Newminster (as the monastery was called) all his father's lands at Micheldever, and the lordship of the Hundred. Thus from being a royal possession Micheldever (including the Strattons, Popham, Northington and Abbot's Worthy) passed under the care and lordship of the Abbot and Monks of the Newminster and so continued for a period of 638 years i.e. from about 900 till 1538.

The charter by which Edward the Elder recorded this gift in 902 gives the boundaries of the land of Micheldever as follows: "These are the land boundaries of Miceldefer. First to Hawlynch, thence along the public highway to Egulph's tree, then along the highway as far as Miceldefer, then from Miceldefer to the pool, then from the pool to Messanbury, then from Messanbury to Waterlynch, then from Waterlynch to Staplethorn, then from Staplethorn to the foul way, then from the foul way to the pool abovementioned, then from that pool to Thyddenthorn and from Thyddenthorn to Tetgrave, then from Tetgrave to Certesborough, then from Certesborough to Clearflood, then from Clearflood along the street to Herwysham, then from Herwysham to Linley, then from Linley to the bullock's slough, then from the bullock's slough to Tykkysham, then over the field to Berkley, then from Berkley onward to Epley, then from Epley onward to Henhanger, then over the field to Candover and along Candover to Duddown, then along the stream to Brokenborough within the rood cross to Beazley, from the road cross toward the middle

of Weardhanger, thence to Papenholt southwards, thence to the moot house and thence again to Hawklynch".

There may come a day when some one is clever enough to understand these thousand years old directions ; to point out the foul way and the bullock's slough and Brokenborough within the rood cross. (According to Taylor, Brokenborough means badger-boar-corner.) The Charter was written in Anglo-Saxon and the foregoing is a translation. Below is another translation.

"Thys ben the markys of the land of Miceldefer. Fyrst, begyn at Hafoclynk, then so along the lawpath to Egulfus tre, fro thennys along the lawpath to Mychyldefer, from thennys along Mychyldefer, thanne fro Mychildefer to the pole, thanne fro the pole to Messanbryg, thanne from Messanbryg to Waterlynk, thanne from Waterlynk to Staplethorne, thanne from Staplethorne to the Horneway, thenne from the forseyd pylle to Thyddanthorne, then from Thyddanthorne to Tetgrave, thanne from Tetgrave to Certesboro', from Certesboro' to Clereflood, thanne from Clereflood along the stret of Herwysham, thanne fro Herwysham to Lynleyge, thanne from Lynleyge to Bullokyssole, thenne fro Bullokyssole to Tykkysham, fro thennys over the field to Berkle, thenne fro Berkle forth to Eple, thenne fro Eple so forth to Henhanger, so over the field to Candefer, thenne along Candefer to Duddune, thenne along the river of Brokenboro,—from Brokenboro wtynne the ford of Begele, from the ford to mydwarde of Werdhanger, from Werdhanger so forth to Papenholt southwarde, from thence to the manere, thenne ovyr Rwdune agen to Haflync".

A link or lynch means a piece of barren, rough or stony ground. Horneway is a winding road or path. Perhaps Berkle is the modern Burcot at East Stratton. The Vic-

toria County History thinks that the old Moot House stood on the site of the Manor farm house now in possession and occupation of Mr. H. Morris Wells. But it should be noted that the charter places the Moot House on the *Boundary* of the manor. Hence it is difficult, if not impossible, to identify the site with the present Manor house which is in the village and close to the Church.

CHAPTER II

HYDE ABBEY.

THE monastery which Edward the Elder built in Winchester was called the Newminster to distinguish it from the Old Minster, the Church of St. Swithun—the Cathedral. The Newminster was placed on the north side of the Cathedral and very close to it. King Alfred's bones were moved from the Old Minster and reburied in the Newminster. We must suppose that the monks pursued the even tenour of their way during succeeding years, until the country found itself once more in troublous times. There came a weak king Ethelred, called the Unready because he was so often without "rede" or good counsel. Violence and bloodshed filled the land and the king was unable to keep order. The Danes heard of it and again swarmed across the North sea. They quickly conquered the whole land and about 1016 the famous Cnut (or Canute) became king. He was a doughty warrior, a wise statesman and a pious Christian—like many another soldier. Every one knows the old story about him. The incident is supposed to have happened at Southampton. Winchester was Cnut's capital. He was a great friend of the monks and gave to the Newminster a magnificent gold and silver

cross, studded with jewels, to be placed on the altar. He died in 1035 and was buried in the Cathedral. His two sons were useless kings and luckily died early, whereupon the English chose as King, Edward, son of Ethelred the Unready. He is called the "Confessor" because of his saintly life, but though a good man he was not a great king. When he died, Harold, Earl of Wessex, was the most powerful man in the country and it was he who opposed William the Conqueror at the battle of Hastings. Harold's troops were almost all West Saxons, that is, from Wessex. Every one knows how the English fought and were beaten, and how Harold died, battle-axe in hand, in the midst of a little company of faithful friends.

We like to think that Micheldever had a hand in this battle. The Abbot of the Newminster was Harold's uncle. He gathered a dozen of his stalwart monks and twenty men from his estates and hurried to Hastings to fight for the national cause. He and his monks were slain to a man. In all probability some of his soldiers were men from his Micheldever estate. One wonders how many of them staggered home to the village, bleeding and broken, with the news of defeat. What a hubbub, a hurrying and a scurrying and a hiding of such valuables as the villagers possessed!

The battle of Hastings was fought on Oct. 14, 1066. At the end of the month William marched towards London, then turned west to Wallingford, and then east again, north of the Thames, towards London. At this point it would seem that he decided to attack Winchester, and marching through Ewell, Letherhead, Shere and Guildford reached Farnham (1). The shortest route to Winchester

(1) Hon. F. H. Baring in *Hants Field Club Proceedings*, 1915.

from Farnham is along the river Wey through Alton. But, perhaps because this route was too boggy for marching in November and December or because he wished to get into a more direct line between London and Winchester, he seems to have chosen a more northerly route and followed a line passing through Crondall and north of South Warnborough and so through Nately to Basing. There he turned south and marching through Dummer reached Micheldever, seven miles from Winchester. The Honble. F. H. Baring, a great authority on Norman doings in England, writing in the *Hampshire Field Club Proceedings* (1915) thinks that it was while William was at Micheldever that he received the surrender of the city of Winchester. Ancient records show that while the Manor of Micheldever was worth £60 in 1065, and £93 in 1086, it was only worth £40 in 1067-8. What caused this great fall in value between 1065 and 1067? Mr. Baring thinks it resulted from the ruin caused by William's army while he was in the neighbourhood, as his men would no doubt consume all the supplies in the district. If Mr. Baring is right, and William came to Micheldever, the villagers who fought at the battle of Hastings might look from their own cottage doors upon the face of the Conqueror.

The story goes that William was very angry when he found that the Abbot and some monks of the Newminster had fought against him and that in revenge he robbed the Abbey of numerous Manors. But Mr. Horace Round says that this story must be relegated to the realms of fiction (V.C.H. Vol. I. P. 419). William indeed is soon found *presenting* lands to the Abbey and, in any case, we may take it that he was too good a sportsman to object to the Abbot and his monks fighting for their own country.

William had his little joke at the expense of the Abbey

later on. He built himself a Palace in Winchester—close to the Butter Cross. Its life—if merry, as it doubtless was—was also short. For it was burnt down in a great fire caused by a fight between Bishop de Blois' men and Queen Matilda's in 1140. There is very little of it left now and what there is has become a tea-shop. Purposely or accidentally he built his Palace in such a position that the monks of Newminster were practically cut off from the High Street. They tried to cut him off at Hastings: he cut them off at Winchester. Therefore they looked for a fresh site and built themselves a monastery in the fields at Hyde just outside the North Gate. They removed to their new home—henceforth called the Abbey of Hyde—in 1110, carrying with them all their precious possessions including the bones of King Alfred and the great cross of Cnut. But still the fortunes of the Abbey and of the Conqueror are interlaced. The same fire which burnt the latter's Palace in 1140 destroyed the Abbey also. Cnut's great cross was melted in the flames. The story runs that the Abbey conflagration was caused by fire balls hurled from Wolvesey. It is doubtful whether this was possible. But whatever the immediate cause, Bishop of Blois was responsible and later on he was compelled to make good some of the Abbey losses, the monks claiming from him £4,862—in those days a very large amount. A copy of the cross was made and presented to the Abbey in 1167. The Abbey was rebuilt on the same site and the monks flourished; miracles were reported; crowds of poor, sick and infirm people gathered about it: the Abbey became famous and so continued. But about 1500 it was reported that all was not as it should be; there was too much eating and drinking and good cheer and not enough of good works. About 1530 Henry VIII.—for reasons of his own

—decided to abolish the monasteries throughout the country. He confiscated their money and lands—which he gave or sold to his favourites— and turned the monks out into the streets with a small pension, besides, in certain cases, cutting off the head of the Abbot "to encourage the others". He sold the Abbey of Hyde to Thomas Wriothesley (pronounced "Rotsley") one of his chief advisers.

In 1538 Wriothesley came himself to Winchester to help in the destruction of the buildings. He writes—"about three o'clock a.m. we made an end of the shrine of Winchester. We think the silver will amount to near 2000 marks. Going to bedsward we viewed the altar. Such a piece of work it is that we think we shall not rid of it before Monday or Tuesday morning". Very thoroughly he did his work, so thoroughly that a few years later almost all trace of the Abbey buildings had disappeared.

We next hear of Hyde Abbey in 1786 when the worthy magistrates of Hampshire decided that this sacred spot was the most fitting site on which to build a new—prison! In digging trenches for foundations many old graves were opened and the contents treated most irreverently. A crozier, rings, and vessels used in the Holy Communion service, and many other treasures were found and often sold for an "old song". The Crozier is now in the South Kensington Museum whither it was sent last year by its possessor, Mrs. John Nicoll. She relates that her grandfather, who was a Barrister, happened to be passing the spot at the time when the relic was found. He bought it for a small sum from the man who found it. It is described as "an Abbot's Crozier discovered on the site of the ruins of Hyde Abbey, Winchester, about the year 1786, dug up at the time when the foundations of the County jail were being laid. It was found placed at the

HEAD OF CROZIER FOUND AT HYDE ABBEY

head of a stone coffin". The Museum authorities declare it to be of early 13th century date (circa 1220). If so, it must have belonged to some other Abbot than "my Lord of Hyde", for it was not till 1390 that the Abbots of Hyde were granted permission to use a crozier. Possibly one of the monks had become Abbot of some other monastery and was brought back "home" to Hyde for burial—crozier and all. It is of brass, gilt, and a fragment of the wooden staff still remains in the socket. (See illustration.)

CHAPTER III

ROYAL VISITORS, AND THE ABBEY REGISTER

In the Record Office in London there are books called Itineraries, that is, accounts of travels.

These books show to what places our Kings and Queens travelled, and form a kind of diary. From one of these it appears that King John was at Micheldever on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 27-30 in 1205. Quite a long visit! What was he doing here and where did he stay? There was of course hunting to be had in the great royal forest of Pamber of which Micheldever Wood formed part. Perhaps the end of July was not too early in the year, for it will be remembered that William II (Rufus) met his death in the New Forest while hunting in the month of August, 1100. King John would probably stay at the Abbey guest house on the site, perhaps, of the Manor farm.

Eighty years later the village was honoured by another royal visitor—King Edward I. He stayed the night of Thursday, September 20, 1285, at Micheldever.

Three years previously he had conquered Wales and very likely some Micheldever lads fought with him. They would be sure to organize a great welcome for such a strong,

lovable soldier. If we may include Alfred and the Conqueror, then our modest village has the distinction of having entertained four kings, at least, in the course of its history.

Beyond the royal visits there is little to record concerning Micheldever under Abbey rule. It is not clear how much land in the Hundred passed into actual possession of the Abbey under the grant made by Edward the Elder. Possibly the amount was comparatively small, the chief value lying in the lordship of the Hundred under which much revenue accrued to the Abbey in the shape of fines, heriots, etc., etc. "Domesday"—a sort of Tax book made by order of William the Conqueror—mentions that there was a mill at Weston, a hamlet about half a mile from the village. To this mill all the tenants on the estate would be obliged to take their corn for grinding. They would pay a fixed sum for the work and the money would go to the Abbey. It was a valuable form of property. A mill is still standing on the old site. The Abbey might farm all its land or let part of it to tenants. It would build a Grange in which to store farm produce and to provide accommodation for the steward, and lodging and entertainment for travellers. For the Hundred of Micheldever was the most important of the Abbey possessions.

The monks probably made the fish ponds near the present Southbrook House so that they might be sure of fish for Friday's dinner and for other fast days.

That the actual holding of land here by the Abbey was not at first extensive is perhaps proved by the very numerous occasions on which the Abbey in later days bought land in the Hundred.

There are many Abbey records dealing with the transfer of land at Micheldever to or by "the Abbot and Convent

of Hyde". ("Convent" seems to have been used for a house of either monks or nuns.) A few of these agreements are given below.

HYDE ABBEY REGISTER.

HARL, M.S. 1761.

The M.S. is thus described by Mr. De Gray Birch (Liber Vitae, p. 71, Preface)—"Harley M.S. 1761. A list of the principal contents is given in the New Monasticon, Vol. II, p. 433 n. It is of the fifteenth century and somewhat carelessly written. The transcriptions of the earlier documents have been made by a scribe who could not read their texts accurately. Edwards describes this M.S. at p. 88 of the *Liber Monasterii de Hyda, A.D.* 455 *to* 1023 (Master of the Rolls series). On the fly leaf are written these words in pencil 'Bought of Hancock, the Devil's broker'."

In this Register the Charters which deal with lands etc. at Micheldever are very numerous. A few extracts, more or less typical of the majority, are here given. Many names of fields, etc. are omitted.

(1) A.D. 1191. Richard de Limesy on Christmas Day frees two hides of land, which he holds in Micheldever for a service of 40/- yearly to be paid to the Abbey, to John (Suthill) the Abbot to hold at rent for 15 years for 12 marks. At the end of 15 years the land to return to Richard free and quit except for the aforesaid service. Witnesses, Vincent the Prior, Jerome the Chamberlain, Brother Andrew "who wrote this deed", Master John Jukel, Peter Walden then serving the Abbey, etc.

(2) The deed of Richard Grimbald, quit claiming one virgate of land date, probably 1222-1248]. Let all present and future know that I Richard Grimbald and my heirs

have rendered and quit-claimed to God and St. Peter and the Abbot and Convent of Hyde one Virgate of land with all its pertinences in Micheldever which my father Grimbald held i.e. the messuage which was John Glovere's and these acres underwritten, in one field, one acre near the aforesaid messuage, one four acre in Medfurlong, one acre at Rogum, one acre in Eastbriggarstone, half an acre and one arpent at Buttucke near the land of Richard, son of Odin, half an acre near the pit next that land, one acre above Firmille near the land of Walter Penistrange, half an acre in Estone near the land of Hugh de Cumba, half an acre under Firmille, one acre in Puttewerthe near the land of Osborne de Chaldwell, one acre above Puttewerthe towards the South, one acre at Dichende near the land of Osborne de Chaldwell, half an acre in Burdene near the land of William Mercator, half an acre in Brokenbrige, one acre at Bossedelle near the land of William Bronde, one acre at Brokenebryge near the land of William Mercator, half an acre and one arpent near the land of William Mercator. And in another field, one acre near the land of Richard Grimbald towards the north, one acre at Stikele near the pit, one acre in Estone near the land of Henry Prikiere, half an acre in the furlong of Papenacre near the land of Theobald, half an acre above Chalghulle, half an acre above Chalghulle near Ckauppe, one acre above Chalghulle near the land of John de Husseley, one acre in Ribwohlande near the land of Henry Prikiere, one acre at Westdichende, one acre at Grytethorne at Dichende, half an acre at Huffethorne near the land of John de Husseley, half an acre in Midfurlong near the land of Richard Marechal, half an acre and one arpent near the land of Henry Prikiere, one acre in Gritthorne's land near the land of Hugo de Cumba towards the east, half an acre and one

arpent of cultivated land towards the east, half an acre in Binorthegryte thorneslande near the land of Henry Prikiere, half an acre in Dounfurlong near the land of Hugo de Cumba, one acre in Hundesflode, one acre in part of Magthilonde by old Fischa and half an acre near Gouldhourde by the land of Henry Prikiere.

The Abbot gave 5 marks towards his necessities, and to his wife two gold pieces as her dowry, and to their son Herbert 12d.

This deed shows the open field system in being.

(3) Date, 1222-1248. Ralph, son of Alan sells eight acres lying in Kenelonde to Walter the Abbot—4 acres in the Manor of Micheldever which lie above Kenelonde and extend in Toking weie (Token way) together with the common pasture between Tokingweie and the field of the Abbot.

(4) Roger, Abbot of Hyde, Grants to Owen Le Neyr [Niger], or the "black" and Alice his wife, sustentation as long as they live i.e. daily two loaves of the grooms, two gallons of ale of the convent from which the Convent drinks daily and three gallons of better ale of the ale of the free family of the Abbot, and two pence for relishes ; which pence he shall receive for the whole week from the Curtarius on the Sabbath day i.e. 14d. The said Owen and Alice shall receive yearly 20/- for clothing and yearly half a mark for lodging and yearly six carts loads of underwood which the Abbot will cause to be carted to their house ; and if Owen shall die before his wife the said Alice shall receive half of these benefits and if Alice shall die first Owen shall receive his nourishment in full. To the said Owen and Alice for the marriage of one of their daughters the Abbot shall give 20/- ; and for this donation

the Abbot has as a gift all the tenement of the said Owen and all his land, etc., in Micheldever ; and if the Abbot is summoned with regard to these either by Jews or Christians this liberty will cease for Owen & Alice until the Abbot can hold the lands in peace. "Given in our Chapter on the day of Venus (Friday) after St. Simon and St. Jude, 1259. Witnesses, Sir Ralph de Basing, Sir William de Stratton, Robert Trencheswylle, steward, Robert de Popham.

(5) Robert, Clerk, of Micheldever, grants to Robert de Hyda, Rector of the Church of Micheldever, 7 acres of land in Southbrook, at annual rent of 5d. for all services, for which grant the said Robert de Hyda gave him 6 acres and 5/-.

(6) Owen Niger grants to Robert de Hyda, Rector of Micheldever, 54½ acres in Southbrook at a rent of 16d. The Rector gave him 45 marks 10/- and Owen warrants Robert against all men and women, both Christians and Jews, and will defend him from every suit both of the lord and Court of the Abbot. (About A.D. 1250.)

(7) Owen Niger in 1259 granted to Roger, the Abbot, all his tenement in Micheldever together with all his rent in the same ville and in Laverstoke and all his wood called Blakewode (Blackwood) together with 24½ of arable and ½ acre of meadow. "The Abbot will find for him and his wife nourishment as is contained in a deed about the same."

(8) Inquisition made at Winchester before the Steward and Marshal of the Guest house of the Lord King on Monday next after the first Sunday after Easter in the sixth year of the reign of King Henry V (1419) on the oath of twelve who say that there is a certain highway of the Lord

King lying in the ville of Micheldever in the County of Southampton by which one goes from the ville of Estratton as far as the ville of Westratton, in which said place the ford is ruinous, broken up and unrepaired and flooded with water, to the grave injury of the wheeled traffic of the Lord King and his people passing across the aforesaid highway, owing to the defective scouring of one ditch lying on the west side of the said highway, which ditch the Abbot of the house of St. Barnabas the Apostle, of Hyde, near Winchester ought to scour and repair, as is held to be right by reason of his lands lying on both sides of the said highway. And that the Abbot himself and his predecessors from time immemorial have been accustomed to scour and repair the said ditch ; and they say that the said highway hath been in the said ruinous condition, through the omission to scour the ditch, since the Feast of St. Nicholas the Bishop in the third year of the reign of King Henry V. until the day of the taking of this inquisition. "Et quia villa de Mucheldevere in qua infrascripta jacet est extra virgam eo quod hospitium locum tenetis domini Regis fuit apud Tychefelde tempore captionis hujus praesentationis. Ideoque ad presentationem supradictam non datum est." The Latin here given is a little difficult. Probably it is an instance of faulty transcription on the part of the "scribe".

But the general sense is this : "And because the township of Micheldever, in which the withinwritten road lies, is outside the boundary and because the guest house (1) of the *locum tenens* of the Lord King was at Titchfield at the time of the taking of this presentation, therefore it was not given at the above said presentation."

(1) Hospitium may mean an Inn of Court or Chancery.

We can only trust that the ditch was speedily scoured—to the comfort of the "wheeled traffic of the Lord King and his people passing across the highway".

(9) In the year 1421 an Inquisition was held in Basingstoke when a complaint was laid that the Abbot of Hyde had failed to find a hunter "and kenetts and racches to keep down foxes, cubs, wild cats and other hurtful animals, for the salvation of the sheep, lambs, calves and other domestic animals or birds, men or women dwelling on the said Manor of Micheldever". The Abbot acknowledged his liability and prayed that the Manor (apparently sequestrated) might be returned to him, with the outgoings since the date of the sequestration.

(10) "*Memorandum* that on the day of Mercury next before the Feast of the Passover in the 18th year of King Henry VI. (1440) came John Motesfount, son and heir of John Motisfount and son and heir of Thomasina sister and heir of Sir Richard, son and heir of Philip de Mucheldever, son and heir of Simon de Mucheldever, to Hyde near Winton and then and there in the Great Chamber of the Lord Abbot did homage to the Lord Nicholas Strode, Abbot of Hyde, for half a hide of land which he holds of the said Abbot in Mucheldever as in right of his Church of Hyde, by military service. William Chamberlayne, Seneschal there, John Shapewyke, Simon Patryke, William Hugayne (clericus) and others present, and he has a day for paying 14/8 for relief for the aforesaid lands and tenements to his death."

This Memorandum refers to land which subsequently passed to the Stansbys and Bristows.

CHAPTER IV

THOMAS WRIOTHESLEY.

AFTER the dissolution of Hyde Abbey in 1538 Henry VIII, for the sum of £1318, granted the Manor, Hundred, Rectory and Advowson of Micheldever and all the Messuages, buildings, etc., there, which had been part of the possessions of that Monastery to Thomas Wriothesley and his heirs. He has been mentioned before as having with his own hands helped to sack the Abbey. The eldest son of William Wriothesley (who was York Herald) he was educated at Cambridge and was intended for the Law but seems to have drifted to Court. By degrees he rose to be the King's chief adviser and at length became Lord Chancellor. Probably no man profited more from the ruin of the monasteries. He managed to get into his own hands about half the monastic property in Hampshire and the number of Manors he owned at the time of his death was prodigious. He was certainly a great Spoiler. Curiously enough his sympathies were all with the religious customs, doctrines and ritual of the persons whose ruin he worked. There is a story (1) about him in connection

(1) *Narratives of the Reformation*, Camden Society, pp. 303-8.

with Anne Askew who was charged with denying the doctrine of Transubstantiation. She was tortured in London and on one occasion Wriothesley himself was present. The victim was stretched on the rack and suffered so cruelly that the men who worked the machinery refused to continue. Whereupon Wriothesley seized the handle and gave it a few turns himself! This is perhaps one of those base scandals which so often drag through the mire the reputations of highly placed but unpopular men. It shows however which side had his sympathies in the religious disputes of the day.

Before the fall of the Abbey Wriothesley was already connected with Micheldever, possibly in the capacity of steward of the Abbey. He also held from the Abbot a 61 years' lease of the great tithes of Micheldever, Northbrook and Weston at a rent of £20. With the tithes apparently went the Parsonage farm. All these he sublet, in 1536, to Edmund Clerke at a rent of £24 to the Abbot and £20 to Wriothesley. Clerke also agreed to give 20d. a week to the ten poorest householders of Micheldever and to entertain any of Wriothesley's children for the sum of 12d. a week each. (It should be remembered that 12d. had as much purchasing power as 10/- before the war.)

The Parsonage farm stood between the stream and the Church. It is so marked on a map of the estate made in 1730. The exact position is indicated at the present time by a series of mounds and hollows near the footpath which leads from the bridge to the Church. The precise position of Clerke with regard to the farm is not quite clear. Perhaps he was a sort of caretaker, Wriothesley leaving his furniture there.

We owe our knowledge of some details of Wriothesley's

connection with Micheldever to a number of private letters which he left in his London office.

In a letter written in 1534 we read: "Twenty principal oaks from the forest of Westbere have been delivered to Mr. Wriothesley's deputies by the King's warrant. The oaks delivered to Wriothesley for his building in Micheldever were felled by his deputy Richard Ryve, of Hydebarton, and sold to the men of Hunton at 3/4 a piece. They were worth 6/8". Building then, was going on in 1534 and it was still in hand in 1536 in which year Clerke writes to report progress. After mentioning that he has received Wriothesley's letters "by the carrier of Odiham", he says, "It will please you to hear in what forwardness your affairs are here. As touching your closet the same is in such readiness as I doubt not but it shall be set uppe and erected before next Saturday night, so as the hilliers and sealers may set uppon it in the beginning of the next weke with such spede as I trust they shall finish their part of it within eight days after. At the which time the sealing with wainscot shall also be at a point, and by the said time I trust the carpenters shall have finished and set up as well your staynes as all the doors and other things to be made by your appointment."

Hillier or hellier comes from an old word "hele" which meant to "cover", Hence it signifies a tyler or slater who "heles" roofs. A thatcher, curiously, is never called a hillier. Seelours were those who covered walls with hangings, curtains or wainscot. "Staynes" were printed cloth in imitation of tapestry.

Clerke continues, "Your garden is in good forwardness but that we be somewhat behindhand with the brickwork for want of stuff. Nevertheless, I am faithfully promised to receive on Monday next two loads of bricks and to

have the rest with all the celerity that can be. Thus advertising you that my young master your sonne, your daughter and all your household be in good health and humbly desiring you to send us ten pieces more of matts, for that else we shall be destitute of the same for your closet which we think cannot well want it (i.e. do without it), I beseech our Lord to preserve you and my mistress and to sende you muche increase of worship. From your own house this Friday morning."

Another of Wriothesley's agents Anthony Roke, writing in 1537 says, "Your new house I trust shall be clean done, saving the glazing, by the latter end of next week. Labourers be so taken into harvest that they will not yet meddle with the motes and ponds."

Wriothesley's building operations were evidently on a considerable scale. They began at the latest in 1534 and were not concluded till the autumn of 1537. They needed twenty great oaks, the labour of hilliers and sealours and included the making of a garden with brick-work, moats and ponds. These all point to something more elaborate than the repairing of farm and barns. Barns probably were always thatched and thatchers were never called "hilliers". Evidently Wriothesley was building himself a new house and, indeed, Roke expressly names it—"your new house". Where was it? It is almost certain that it stood on the site of the present Alms House (Southbrook House). A map of 1730 shows a large house in that position, close to the "motes and ponds". We know that this house was the property and residence of the Bristow family from about 1676 to 1776. We also know that the Bristows bought it after the Stansbys left it, and the latter family first appears in the parish Register in 1543 when Robert Stansby married "Essabeth"

Harris. Did the Stansbys succeed the Wriothesleys ?

Very soon after his house here was finished, Wriothesley got possession of the Abbey of Titchfield and there proceeded to build himself another house, perhaps more magnificent and more in keeping with his increased wealth and importance. This house was probably ready for occupation in or before 1542. The Micheldever house, being no longer needed, was then sold, we may suppose, to Robert Stansby. That the latter succeeded Wriothesley is supported by the fact that Stansby's house boasted "ceilings" in the year 1565 when Stansby died. By his will he directs that "all such implements of house as do remain in my house at Micheldever shall remain unto my heirs for ever, that is to say, the ceilings, the tables, the cupboards, the forms in the Hall and the parlour, the ceilings and the bedstead over the buttery", etc. That a man should leave the ceilings to his heirs sounds very curious to modern ears. But they were not ceilings such as ours. The word in those days meant tapestry or other hangings on the walls, or panelling. Now we have seen that Wriothesley employed "seelours" in his new building, that is,men who put up tapestry or panelling, and Clerke expressly mentions the "ceiling with wainscot". It is highly improbable that there was any other house in the village which contained such luxuries. Again the "brick-work in the garden" points to the Stansby-Bristow house, which had a large garden reaching to the fish ponds where brick-work might be necessary to support the banks and, as a matter of fact, brickwork has been found in other parts of the garden. The residence was known, later, as "Micheldever House".

In a letter dated Jan. 2 1538 John Crayford writes to Wriothesley : "We be glad of fine beds, carpets and cushions to furnish your house of Fitchfield, lately conveyed from

Micheldever". It would seem that the new owner of Titchfield drew upon his Micheldever house to furnish some rooms in the Abbey until the completion of the new house which be determined to construct there. But for the time his family remained at Micheldever, for the letter continues, "We have recompensed the same with lath and salt, trusting to your wife's judgment therein". (A cryptic remark.)

Five days later Anthony Roke sends the following to Wriothesley, "This Twelfth day (the twelfth after Christmas) while with Mr. Maxwell helping to draw the platt of the whole house [at Titchfield] I received your letter by one of my Lord of Bangor's servants and send the two white bowls with the cover by Mr. Serjeant of the Accatry. I intended to have ridden afterwards to Micheldever about the felling of the woods but wait to hear your pleasure. Because a carpenter who on Friday took all the timber off the roofs of the Church [at Titchfield] has since had two dead of the sickness in his house [introduced] by a strange woman from Romsey who is dead and two more are sick. The house is shut up and orders given that none of your servants come within the town.

I shall not be hasty neither in going or sending [to Micheldever] till I shall [see] how this infection shall stay. They did not dye of the plag here this many year. Wherefore it is to be fered. The saying is that it cometh here but seldom and then very sore. I do not write this because I am afraid, for with God's love I will abide, if it come not into the house as I trust in fine it shall not, and if it so do, welcome be it. Scribbled Jan. 7 going to horse back".

On the 27th of the same month Roke writes again. He and three others have, in Wriothesley's name, been

taking possession of the estates lately belonging to Titchfield Abbey. They had attended the Courts or meetings of tenants in various centres and had tried to put as decent a complexion as possible upon a transference which most of the tenants probably viewed with disfavour. In this matter Mr. Moyle was the expert. He surely must have been a lawyer (rather like Rabshakeh in the Bible) and it was his business to cajole the tenants. He tells them that the Abbey had voluntarily surrendered. True—but only because it was obliged to! Roke describes how the tenants surrendered their Convent Agreements ("seals") and received others bearing Wriothesley's name and he states that "every man is glad". This is a delightful touch and probably very far from the truth. He mentions that the Court at Titchfield had to be held in the Church—a reminder that the Church, being usually the only large building, was frequently used for meetings and even for storing goods. It is rather startling to find "bondmen" in England as late as 1538. They were serfs who were not allowed to leave the estate on which they were born and had to put in so much work a week on the home farm of the lord. There were no doubt "bondmen" at Micheldever at that time. Roke reports that the sick carpenter and others had recovered but the superstitions of the day prevented him from continuing to strip the Abbey roof during the same course of the moon which had seen him laid low. It appears that Wriothesley found the Abbey of Titchfield in a dilapidated condition, and human nature rather delights to know that, in one case at any rate, his greed was not thoroughly gratified. The letter is as follows:

"This week Mr. Moyle, Mr. White, Mr. Ryve and I have been at the Courts following. First the farmer at Walworth on Monday where, as in every Court Mr. Mylle plainly

and discreetly declared openly the state of the late Monastery how and under what manner the late Abbot and Convent of their own frank and free will, without any manner of compulsion, had clerely surrendered the same into the King's hands, and that the King, considering your wisdom and daily service, as freely gave it to you and your heirs for ever under the Great Seal, which Mr. Ryve declares in English. That done, Mr. Moyle declares we come to take possession for you, whereof every man is glad and wishes it has been seven years before and then all are sworn to you. I that lack wit and learning to do any good—to make the poor men think I come for some purpose, play your Chancellor (as gentle Mr. Solymond was wont to call me) sealing the new indentures openly in Court and none stick to bring in their Convent seals and receive yours". (How these Commissioners and others must have chuckled over the ease with which they fooled, or thought they fooled, the simple, untaught farmers and smallholders.) Roke continues—"On Monday night we lay at Mr.White's wife's mother's house ; on Tuesday at ..... That night we came to your Manor of Titchfield and onThursday kept Court there, which should have been held in a little house in the market place but as it was too small they went to the Parish Church. A great number were present but not all, for many were that day at the sessions at Winchester. You have many good and hearty tenants, divers of them good archers, and some bondmen whose names shall be registered. Friday we kept Court at Crofton, yesterday at Swanwyk and thence I am come to Micheldever, because of the sickness. It seems that the carpenter and those reported as ill are well but he stays from his labour in taking down the Abbey Church because we would be loathe to adventure with him before the change of the

moon. The pavement of the body of the Church is taken up but scarce the tenth tile saved, they are so worn.

We shall keep no courts till about Friday. We do look this week for men of Overton to come to see the South Isle for the building of a tower for the bells. My good mistress your mother, Mrs. Mary, Mr. Anthony, gentle Mrs. Clerc are well. Scribbled this Sunday at Micheldever going towards Titchfield."

At the end of the letter just quoted we find that men from Overton are expected to view the South Aisle for the building of a bell tower. Here we seem to have a very interesting piece of information. Where are the "men from Overton" expected? Not surely at Titchfield which is nine miles south-east of Southampton and therefore about thirty five miles from Overton. Any building at Titchfield would draw men from Southampton and, besides, they were pulling down the Abbey Church there, not building bell towers. Further the letter is written at Micheldever and the natural meaning would be that the "men from Overton" are expected at Micheldever. Our present fine tower has been considered by those who study these things to have been built in the latter years of Henry the Eighth, though no definite date could be assigned to it. This letter of Anthony Roke goes to show that in 1538 there was at least a suggestion of building a Tower. That the suggestion was carried out would seem to be proved by the will of Richard Bull, of Weston (Micheldever), who in 1544 leaves 6/8 "to the building of the Tower there" (that is, at Micheldever). Probably Wriothesley, bearing in mind a remark of Crawford and Lathom that pulling down a Church was of no great consequence so long as he built another, (see page 39) decided to add a tower to Micheldever Church as a "set off" against pulling

down the Church and Abbey at Hyde. Perhaps he thought it would soothe the religious feelings of his new tenants : perhaps that it might even tell in his favour at some future time when the "Great Books" shall be opened. Such attempts to propitiate Heaven have been naughtily called "Fire escapes". There does not seem room to doubt that he built the tower, indeed after the fall of the Abbey, there was no one else wealthy enough in Micheldever to do it. It is possible too that in the building he used stones brought from Hyde Abbey. For in the walls of the tower there are found, at intervals, stones of the Norman style of workmanship, pieces of the tops and bottoms of pillars, and so on. These must have come from some Church of Norman date. They *may* have been pulled down in order to make way for the tower. On the other hand, they are as likely or more likely, to have come from the recently destroyed Church at Hyde. It is pleasant to surmise that some of the hallowed stones of this famous Abbey are preserved in the Parish Church of the Abbey's principal estate. Stones of the same date and character were found in 1918 built into the East wall of a burial vault beneath the present stokehole.

Over the belfry windows in the tower there are stone panels, with a circle cut in each and in each circle various carved devices. On one of these circles, on the west side, there is a W over a tun (or barrel). Such an arrangement was popular with builders in those days and is called a rebus. A rebus was a joking way of representing a man's name in stone. For instance Prior Silkstede of Winchester represented his name by a skein of silk and a prancing steed. A rebus was usually a poor joke but as it must be a very ill wind which blows nobody any good so these "stone jokes" often tell us who built Churches or houses

and so enable us to fix the date. In this case however we already know the date of the tower. We know too that men were to come from Overton with a view to building. A "W" over a tun—W. Overton.

Does the rebus signify "W-------- Overton" and conceal the name of the actual builder?

An hitherto unpublished letter from Anthony Roke to Wriothesley is interesting and not a little entertaining. Evidently a man had died at Micheldever in a condition which at first suggested the plague or the "sweat" as it was commonly called from the fact that the disease was attended with profuse perspiration. Mrs. Wriothesley was nervous and afraid to return to Micheldever. It would seem that her fear was not groundless for Sir Hugh and others in the village and neighbourhood had been attacked. (Sir Hugh was, no doubt, Hugh Duncalfe, priest-in-charge of the parish. He died in 1543 and was buried in the Church or Churchyard. It was customary to give the courtesy title of "Sir" to such priests as had not taken degrees at either of the Universities. It used to be said that there were only three "Sirs"—"Sir Kynge, Sir Knyght, and Sir Priest"). The letter was written at harvest time in 1537 but is dated "our Lady's even". The reference must be to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin which is observed on September 8th.

The letter runs as follows—"My most humble duty remembered unto your good Maistership, please it the same to be advertised that my very singular good Maistress, Maistress Elizabeth, Maistress Peters with all the rest at Stoke be in good health and so in likewise is that most godly gentilwoman my mistress your mother, Mistress Anne your daughter, with all the other here at Micheldever, thanks be to God therefore, and trust that shortly my good

Mistress may come home again. For there is nothing to be feared of the sudden death of Lambe, whose soul God pardon, for two days after he was dead a man of Poppam that was accustomed to fetch water with his cart at your gate showed that he found him lying along in the water at the bridge ; and with his own hands laved the water upon his head and back because his body could not be covered with the same. So that he took such a cold that neither for warm sheets nor tyles hot there could no hett be brought into his leggs but ever he cried out that the cramps did break his senews.

Humphrey had the swett in the town within two days, after which he tarryeth still and soe doth the cooke at his mother's, and so I think is best till the full of the moon be past. For Sir Hugh and divers of the town and tother thorpes (villages) hath swett but none this sevennight and therefore I trust in our Lord all is done. Maister Doctor Peter in his most heartywise recommendeth him unto your good Maistership. Upon Sunday I dined at Stoke with my good Mistress and him and that afternoon he rode to Waltham and killed a buk, when I would have departed. But he desired me to ride that night with him to Suthwyk and soe I did, because he had a little fall of his horse but not hurt but somewhat sore in his back. ...I beseech your Maistership to pardon me that you have not at this time a perfect reckoning of the bestowing of your money. I have as much as will serve until your coming to Wyndsor and then I trust to declare the same and what order I shall take at Inkpen for your timber there. Your new house I trust shall be clean done saving the Glazing by the latter end of the next week. Your harvest coming in apace thanks be God fearing nothing but the weather and room to lay your corn in for we be fayn to

tread the ..... with a horse. Labourers be so taken into harvest that they will not yet meddle with the motes and ponds. But yet as they may be gotten we shall pit them to work according to your pleasure.

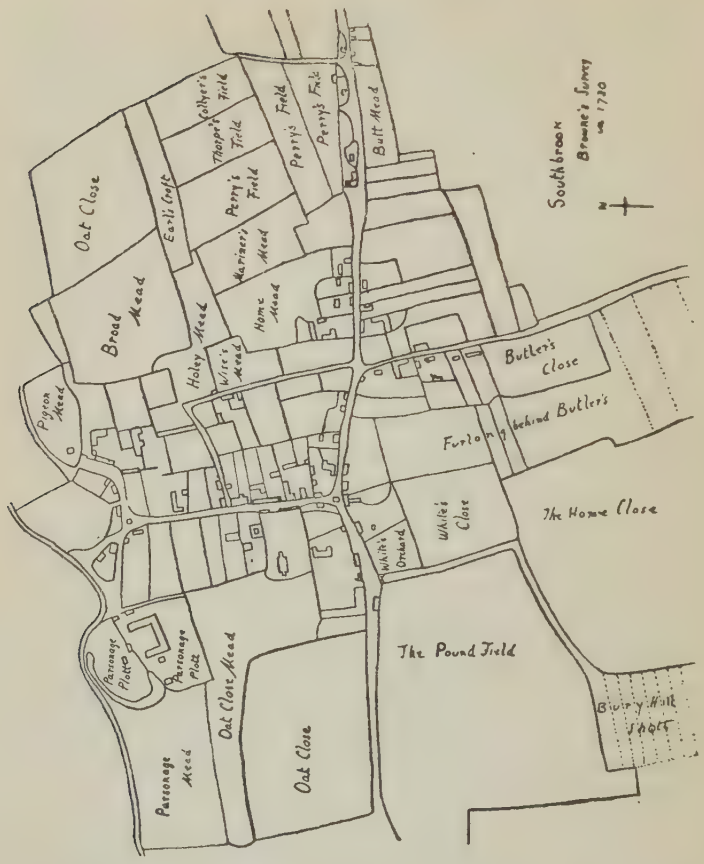
I received last week from Maister Stone six loaves of sugar, four boxes of comfitts, two boxes of marmalade, two boxes of dry sokens and six torches and from Southampton two hogsheads of wyne from old Mr. Gunnost, thirty gallons of Malmsey from young Mr. Gunnost, my lord's servant, and thirty four gallons of sack from Mr. Mylle. Humbly beseeching your good Maistership to pardon me for this my lewd scribbling and more my slackness for that I cannot do that my duty is to do, for if I had ten carcasses I would they should all swett to do you service or else I would I should not live another day as knoweth God who ever preserve your good Maistership. From Micheldever, our Lady's even ; your most bounden bedesman Anthey Roke. Also Sir I beseech you that I may know your pleasure for your hawkes. Marten is best skilled and yet he sayeth he dareth not adventure to kepe them for lack of Knowledge. Your Tassoll is in the keeping of one Paskyn that was with my Lord of Winchester and discharged of late by Mr. Parys. So that I can hear of no man that is skilful but he. They be fyre, it were great pity they should be lost".

Another letter by the same hand in 1538 states that Roke has received by Lembard, the carrier, a barrel of salte salmon, a barrel of white herring, a cade of spratts, three Tapennets of figgs, a pece of raisons, sixty lbs. of prunes, four loaves of sugar, two lbs. of pepper, half a pound of ginger, one quarter cinnamon, quarter saffron, quarter cloves, quarter mace, twenty five small long bars of iron, twelve pairs of large hinges for doors, a dry fat

with an arontyke, a bowl with certain scutcheons of glass, and locks and bolts "which Master Doctor hath bestowed but at my coming to Micheldever I shall send the scutcheons there and likewise to Tychefield." The letter ends, "God preserve you my most especial good master and send me no longer life than my heart and carcase shall be ready to be freely truly faithfuly and daily ready to serve you. Your most bounden servant, Anthony Roke. Feb. 7."

That Wriotheseley was sometimes uneasy over the spoil of the Abbeys is clear from a letter which was written to him by his agents, John Crawford and Rowland Latham, on Jan. 2, 1538. They are referring to the Abbey of Titchfield. They say "On Sunday there came from East Meone (14 miles away) half a dozen neighbours who promised to buy marble stones, altars, etc. Mrs. Wriothesley nor you neither be not meticulous nor scrupulous to make sale of such holy things, having the example of a devout bishop of Rome, named Alexander, whose epitaph is—"Alexander sells crosses and the altars of Christ: he can rightly sell who first bought". "Plucking down the Church is a small matter as you will build a Chapel". (a smaller Church). Wriothesley's conscience was easily rocked to sleep but it is satisfactory to know that at least he *had* such a thing in his composition.

The same letter provides a curious commentary on the lack of energy shown by the villagers at Micheldever. The writers say "The steward, brewer and cook (at Titchfield) will do more in an hour than all our people at Micheldever in a day". Let us hope that we have improved! It reminds us of a piece of Micheldever humour which is worth recording as a village joke against itself. As an example of slowness, we are told that a few years ago, when some small repairs to the church



were necessary, it took two days and a night to rear a ladder against the wall! This would seem to be a record—but it is merely a trap for the unwary. For "days" should be spelled with a capital D and "night" with a capital K!

Extracts from two or three other letters written to Wriothesley may be worth recording. In April, 1538. John Crawford desires Mrs. Wriothesley to receive from Mr.

Rooke [probably Roke] £4 "which he borrowed from me at Micheldever". John Mille in September, 1538, says he will take order with Mr. Stone for conveying Wriothesley's household from London or Flanders to Hampton [Southampton] and thence to Micheldever. He continues, "I have been hindered to my Lord Privy Seal by some sinister report, and although you moved his Lordship for me and brought me to his speech [got me an interview with him] and I then found him my good Lord [found him quite friendly], I now perceive he is not so good to me as he has been". He laments this undeserved loss of favour and begs Wriothesley to help him.

Supposing that Robert Stanesby bought Wriothesley's house in 1542 or 1543 and that the latter then made Titchfield his chief country residence, it is probable that Micheldever saw no more of the great man, though of course he continued to own the estate. We may close with a brief record of his honours. He was Secretary of State in 1536 and 1539. He was made Sir Thomas Wriothesley in 1540, Governor of Southampton Castle in 1541 and in the following year we are told that he was so powerful that he "almost governed everything". Honours fell thick and fast upon him in 1544. He was made Keeper of the Privy Seal, raised to the Peerage as Lord Wriothesley of Titchfield, made Lord High Chancellor of England and a Knight of the Garter. As Lord Chancellor he was a Judge. But his knowledge of law was so scanty and his mistakes so many that after a short experience on the Bench he absented himself from the Courts and appointed others to do that work for him. Henry the Eighth made him one of the executors of his will, and also appointed him joint governour of his son, then a boy. The latter came to the Throne as Edward the Sixth in 1547. At the first meeting of the

boy King's advisers Lord Wriothesley roundly asserted that Henry the Eight had ordered that he (Wriothesley) should receive an Earldom. There was no one at the moment powerful enough to oppose him and he was created Earl of Southampton. He carried the Sword of State at Edward's Coronation in 1547, but the sun of his prosperity was soon to set.

Wriothesley's enemies were active and venomous. They accused him of acting illegally in getting others to do the Chancellor's work. He was deprived of that office, imprisoned in his own house in London, and fined £4,000. He died at his house in Holborn on July 30, 1550, at the early age of 45, and was buried in St. Andrews', Holborn. His wife was Jane, daughter of William Cheney, of Cheneys, Bucks. She died in 1574 and was buried beside her husband. She was a niece of Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, and half-sister of Germain Gardiner, the Bishop's private secretary. Her mother seems to have been married twice; first to the Bishop's brother, by whom she had a son, Germain Gardiner : and then to William Cheney, by whom she had a daughter, Jane, who became Wriothesley's wife. Germain Gardiner was executed in 1543 for denying the Royal Supremacy.

A somewhat incomprehensible letter from him to Wriothesley is inserted here, and may provide the curious with food for thought. It was written in 1537. Probably the original is less obscure. It is difficult to understand why Wriothesley should "have much ado to make any speedy journey between Micheldever and the Isle of Wight, *especially when the days are longest*", and the historical allusions are not clear. The letter as given in State Papers Dom. Henri VIII. is as follows :—

"Wrote nothing by the last messenger Mr. Edward

having lost divers letters sent by gentlemen, could not trust that knave. Is anxious to hear how Wriothesley likes the answer made from hence to the letter of reconciliation. Trusts no more will be needed. We shall go further from you and hope that I shall hear more often "for like those which be nighest the Church and farthest from God, we hear not so oft from you as we did at Valence which is 400 miles from hence. I would fain hear such word from Mr. Parys that I might come and see you which I had rather do at Micheldever than at London, where I think you would rather see me also. I beshrew his cheeks for if he had tarried three or four days longer I had gone with him. If yer speak with him, chide him that he writeth nothing to me therein and tell him that if he send me not word ere that we pass Parris there shall be founded an hundred causes to delay my licence. If he be in Hampshire pray send him the enclosed letter. I sit on thornes till I know what can be done. If it come to pass ye shall have much ado to make any speedy journey between Micheldever and the Isle of Wight especially when the days are longest. The Burgundians assemble space. The French king will now towards Lyons. God send them an honourable retire whom he shall leave behind him. If they keep not the field it will be hard for him to keep Hedin and St. Pol which he has now fortified. The French to save their honours pretend "that the King's Highness having the towns of Arras, Betwyne and certain other in Flanders bound unto his Grace .....". Here the letter breaks off, an inner sheet being missing. Add. "To my good brother Mr. Thomas Wriothesley".

The following is an extract from the will of Thomas Wriothesley, first Earl of Southampton ; "In the name of God, Amen. The 21st. day of July in the fourth year

of the reign of King Edward the VIth. I, Thomas, Earl of Southampton, being whole of mind and of perfect remembraunce although feeble and weake in body, thankes bee unto Almighty God, make and ordayne this my present Testament and last will in manner and forme followinge. First, I yielde my soule wholelie to the infynite mercye of Almightee God, trusting assuredlie to be saved by the merits of the passion of our Lorde and Saviour Jesus Christ, His onlie Sonne and our onlie Mediator, the second person in Trinitie : Item, I give and bequeath unto my most gracious soveraigne Lord the King's Majestie, for a remembrance of my bounden Duetie towards his Heighness, my collar of the Garter, my guilt bason and ewer that is in my wyffe's custodie, my six guilt candlesticks, and my great guilt wreathen pottys, beseeching God to send him His Grace, with health of bodye till he be as olde a King as ever was anie of his noble progenitors. Item, I give to my Lady Marye's grace (afterwards Queen Mary) for a remembraunce, my best standinge cuppe guilt. Item, I give to my Lady Elizabethe's grace (afterwards Queen Elizabeth) for a like remembrance my second standing cupp guilt." After providing for his wife and daughters the will continues—I bequeath unto my said sonne in law (Lord Fitzwater, who married Elizabeth Wriothesley) four of my best great horses, one hundred payres of Almon Rivetts and six lances.

Item, I give to every of my servants his or her yeres wages and to every gentleman being in my household with me asking no wage twenty nobles.

Item, I give to every gentleman my retayner 66/8 and to every yeoman of that sort 20/-. Item, I give to the poore people of Titchfield, Fareham, and other places where my landes lyye the sum of two hundred pounds. Item,

to Alayse the childrens' woman tenne pounds. Item, I give to Elene Clarke towards her marriage fortie pounds. Item, I will that my executors shall beare the necessarie charges of Breton and Clarke now at Winchester and Oxford, if they or either of them do contynewe there or at Oxford in learning and good orders till they shall come to the adge of 21 yeares".

Probably Elene Clarke and Clarke were relations of Edmund Clarke, the name being spelled either with an a or an e.

The first Earl of Southampton had three sons and five daughters. Only one of the sons, Henry, outlived the father and he became the second Earl of Southampton. He was born in 1545, after the family left Micheldever, and was baptized in London. King Henry VIII and the Duke of Suffolk were his Godfathers. His Godmother was Princess Mary, afterwards Queen Mary. He married Mary, daughter of Lord Montagu, whose family was devoted to the old forms and ceremonies of the Church and staunch in its allegiance to the Pope. Lord Southampton entertained Queen Elizabeth at Place House, Titchfield in 1569 when he was twenty four years of age. However, his sympathy with Mary, Queen of Scots, in her quarrel with Elizabeth led to his imprisonment in the Tower in 1572. He died in 1581 at the age of thirty six. By his will he left directions that he should be buried in the Chapel of the Parish Church of Titchfield, that the bodies of "my lorde my father and my ladye my mother" should be removed from London and reburied in the same Chapel and that "two faire monuments should be there made, one for his father and mother the other for himself, "with portraitures of white alabaster or such like upon the said monuments". He left £1,000 for this purpose, equal in

these days to £10,000. The monuments are still to be seen in Titchfield Church.

The second Earl's son, also Henry, succeeded his father at the age of eight. When he was a mere baby of twelve he went to St. John's College, Cambridge and four years later took his M.A. degree. He was not so forward with his love affairs, for he was twenty five when he secretly married Elizabeth Vernon, a beautiful Maid of Honour to the Queen. The latter, on hearing the news lodged both bride and bridegroom in the Fleet prison—an unpleasant and unsavoury place for a honeymoon. This third Earl of Southampton was very fond of his books and did what he could to encourage the writing of poetry. He was a patron of Shakespeare who dedicated some of his work to him. When England decided to support certain German Protestants against attacks by Philip the Fourth of Spain, the third Earl took command of a troop of volunteers and landed with them in Holland. With him went his eldest son James. Both father and son were at once laid low, not by the bullets of the enemy—but by fever. James died immediately and the Earl started for England with the body, but died himself before he could leave Holland—on November 10. 1624. aged 51.

Father and son are buried in the family vault at Titchfield. It is worth remembering that this Earl of Southampton was one of the founders of the State of Virginia in America. Several places there are named in his honour :—New Hampshire, Hampton River, Hampton roads, Winchester, Southampton County.

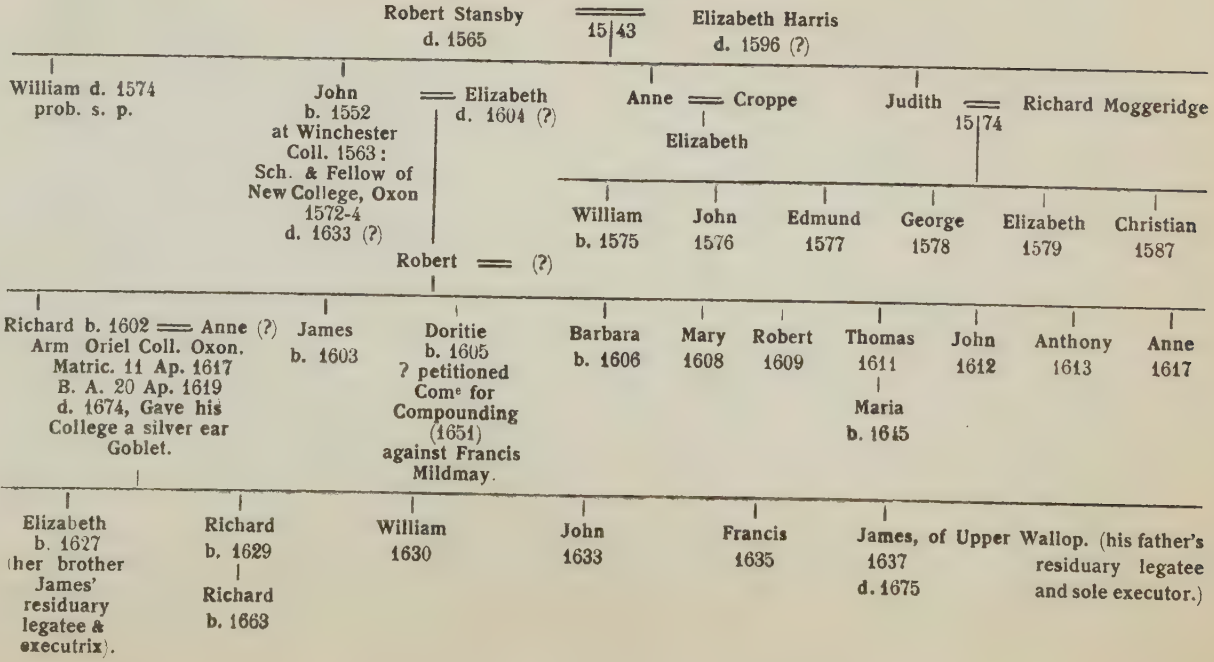
The fourth and last Earl of Southampton was Thomas Wriothesley, second son of Henry. He was born in 1607 and succeeded to the title at the age of seventeen. He married three times. His first wife was a French woman,

Rachel, eldest daughter of Viscount de Ruvigny. Of this marriage, two daughters survived their Father. One, Elizabeth, married the first Lord Gainsborough from whom is descended the present Duke of Portland ; the other, Rachel, married, firstly, Lord Vaughan, and secondly Lord William Russell, eldest son of the Earl of Bedford from whom came the Dukes of Bedford. The Earl's second and third marriages do not particularly concern us. In his younger days he opposed the rather high-handed schemes of Charles the First but later on became one of his most intimate and loyal friends. The King paid a visit to Lord Southampton's house at Titchfield on August 20. 1625. and the Queen (Henrietta Maria) remained there for over five weeks. Later on, in 1647, Charles sought refuge there from the Parliamentary soldiers and was received by the Earl's mother and his little daughter Rachel, then eleven years old.

At Tichfield the King was made prisoner and was taken thence to Carisbrooke Castle. Lord Southampton was unswerving in his loyalty, was present at the King's trial, visited him after his condemnation and watched the body at Whitehall after the execution. Little Lady Rachel Wriothesley would no doubt hear with horror of the terrible end of the king whom she had entertained with her childish chatter, little dreaming that her own husband would some day meet a tragic fate similar to his.

Parliament fined Lord Southampton £6,466 for his loyalty (it cost something to sing "The King" in those days). When Charles II came back in 1660 Southampton was made Lord High Treasurer of England and Earl Marshal. He died in London in 1667 and was buried at Titchfield. As he had no sons the Earldom of Southampton became extinct.

THE STANSBY PEDIGREE (from Church Registers and Wills)



CHAPTER V

THE STANSBYS.

ROBERT Stansby first figures in our local history as taking Elizabeth Harris to wife in the year 1543. We have already given reasons for thinking that he bought the house which Wriothesley had built at Micheldever. With the house apparently went a small estate known as the Manor of Micheldever and also as "Mottifont" or "Mottessont". According to V.C.H. a William de Micheldever seems to have been the tenant of this holding in the thirteenth century, for a charter dated Feb. 1248-9 recording an exchange of land between him and the Abbot of Hyde mentions his demesne lands, while two of the crofts which he acquired of the Abbey were adjacent to his "court" in Micheldever. Thereafter the names of various members of the family appear in Abbey charters or other legal documents. In 1332 there was a Philip de Micheldever who had a son Richard and a daughter Thomasine. The estate seems to have passed to Thomasine's grandson John, son of John Mottisfont, for he did homage at Hyde in 1440 for half a hide of land in Micheldever, as appears elsewhere in this book. It was evidently from this family of Mottisfont that the estate got its alternative name.

Lord Essex, in March 1534, was ordered by Henry VIII to restore to Richard Stansby (Essex' late bailliff) "certain lands of which he had been forcibly deprived" in the Manor of Bildeston (Suffolk). This Richard Stansby had a son Robert, evidently grown-up at the time. It is possible that this is *our* Robert and that it was the recovery of his Father's lands which enabled him to buy the Manor of Micheldever. Richard and Robert were favourite Christian names among the Micheldever Stansbys. Unfortunately the writer has no letters or papers connected with the family and beyond what can be gathered from their wills there is little to be recorded save names and dates.

Robert Stansby died in 1565 after twenty-two years of married life leaving his widow Elizabeth, his eldest son William, John, Anne and Judith. Robert Stanesby's will, proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, is as follows :—

In the Name of God, Amen. The seventh day of September in the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred and three score and five (1565) and in the seventh year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the Grace of God Queen of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, I, Robert Stansby of Micheldever in the County of Southampton gent. being in good and sufficient memoirie, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God the Father of heaven and to Jesus Christ his only sonne, with all the hollie company of heaven, and my body to be buried in Christian burial.

Also I will and bequeath unto William Stansby my son twenty pounds in money, two hundred weathers, fifty ewes, six horses for the cart, six kyen, tenne quarters of

wheat, tenne quarters of barley, one iron bound carte the best that I have at the day of my death, one goblett of silver parcelle gilte (partly gilt) and one standing cuppe (i.e. a cup with a foot) that I caused to be made of the cuppe that his grandfather gave him, my signett ring that I do use to wear, one feather bed, one bolster, one pair of sheets, one pillow, one coverlet, one silver salt all gilte, two silver spoons to be delivered unto him at the day of his marriage. Also I will that all such implements of house as do remain in my house at Micheldever shall remain unto mine heirs for ever, that is to say, the ceilings the tables, the cupboards, the formes in the Hall and parlour, the ceilings and the bedstead in the chamber over the buttery, the forms, the meishing vats, two keilers of lead and timber in the brew house with two greate vats. Also I will and bequeath unto John my sonne my lease of Northington with all the sheep that doth go there and all manner of corn, cattoll and other stuffe that Richard Raynard hath in stock as it doth appear by a bill between the aforesaid Richard and me, tenne pounds in money, one feather bed, one pillow, one pair of sheets, one coverlet, two kyen, one silver cuppe, two silver spoones to be delivered to him when he shall be of the full age of one and twenty years. (John was thirteen at the date of the will.)

Item, I will, bequeth, give and grant unto John Stansby, my said sonne, the scite of my Mannor of Westyderly (West Tytherley) in the County of Southampton with all houses, barns, stables and other edifices, lands, meadows, leasures and pastures, with all the woods and underwoods there growing unto my heirs only excepted and reserved to have and to hold all and singular the premises—unto the said John Stansby and his assigns from the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel which falle in the year of our Lord God

a thousand five hundred four score and ten (1590) unto the end and term of fourtie years then next following, yielding and paying therefor yearly unto myne heirs three pounds of lawful money of England at the Feast of our Blessed Lady Sainte Marie the Virgin and Sainte Michael the Archangel by even portions to be paid. Item, I do further will, etc., unto the aforesaid John Stansby all my tenement now in the tenure and occupation of Johan Perrier, widowe, in Westyderly, to have and to hold the said tenement unto the said John Stansby and his assigns immediately from and after the death of the said Johan Perrier unto the full end and term of fourtie years next following, paying unto myne heirs tenne shillings of lawful money of England.

Also I will and bequeath unto Anne Stansby my daughter fourtie pounds in money, one cuppe of silver all gilte, one feather bed, one bolster, one pillow, one paire of sheetes, one coverlett, one cowe, two silver spoons, my little silver salte all gilte and twenty weathers to be delivered unto her at the day of her marriage. Also I will and bequeath unto Judith my daughter fourtie pounds in money, one pillow, one featherbed, one bolster, one pair of sheets, one coverlett, one cowe, two silver spoones and twenty weathers to be delivered unto her at the day of her marriage. Also I will and bequeath to every one of my servants that be my servant at the day of my death two shillings in money over and besides their wages. I also will and bequeath towards the reparations of the Church of Micheldever five shillings eight pence. Also I do ordain and make William Lawrence of Winchester and William Davie of Micheldever overseers of this my last will and testament. Item, I will that there shall be two quarters of wheate baked in bread to be distributed

to the poor within the City of Winchester about the day of my burial and likewise one quarter of wheate to be baked and distributed where I shall be buried.

Also I give unto each of my overseers for their labours to this my last will performed fourtie shillings a piece. The residue of all my goods I give unto Elizabeth my wife whome I do make my sole and whole executrix of this my last will and testament ; in witness whereof I the aforesaid Robert Stansby have set my seal and subscribed my name these being present and bearing witness to the same by me Robert Stansby". The will was proved November 23rd, 1565.

We gather that Stansby was, as we say, a man of some substance. He owned the Manor of Micheldever and also that of West Tytherley (in Hampshire, ten miles from Salisbury). His son William died possessed of the latter Manor in 1574 and it then passed to his brother John. The latter may have sold it to the Whiteheads, for Sir Henry Whitehead held lands there in 1629 and Richard Whitehead was patron of the Living in 1621. The later history of this Manor is interesting. It was sold about 1800 to Charles Wall who married a daughter of Sir Francis Baring. His son, Charles Baring Wall, succeeded him and died unmarried in 1853. The Manor then passed to Thomas Baring, second son of Sir Thomas Baring, and was sold by Francis Charles Baring in 1906.

In addition, Stansby owned a "tenement" at West Tytherley and had the lease of a farm at Northington. His live stock seems to have consisted chiefly of Sheep of which he leaves by will 290, besides "all the sheep that doth go" at Northington. We may take it that the family was one of some refinement and culture. The eldest son possessed a silver cup given him by his grandfather—

perhaps as a Christening cup— ; the household boasted another "goblett of silver parcelle (partly) gilte" and two other silver cups, two silver salt cellars and at least eight silver spoons. These things were not nearly so common 350 years ago as they are now.

Also "ceilings"—tapestry or panelling—were a luxury of the rich and cultured—in this case probably left behind by Wriothesley. Stansby was not over generous towards his Parish Church but he may have contributed handsomely towards it in previous days, and at least he *remembered* it in his will. "Two quarters of wheat to be baked and distributed to the poor of Winchester"—does this hint that he was specially interested in that City, that he had property or held some public office there? His overseer, William Lawrence was evidently a Winchester solicitor ; he is mentioned similarly in other wills. Of William Davie there is no record.

After the death of Robert Stansby we may conclude that William, his eldest son, continued to live with his mother at Micheldever House and to manage the estate. But he soon followed his father to the grave, dying in 1574 when his age could not have been more than thirty years. He left to the poor of Micheldever 60/- and to the reparations of the Church 6/8. He left the cup which his grandfather gave him to Elizabeth Croppe, the infant child of his sister Anne who had married Roger Croppe. To his mother he leaves a ring of gold to cost 30/- : to each of his two sisters a ring of gold to cost 10/- ; and to Anne Croppe £5 in addition. "I give to my cousin John Waller for a remembrance a ringe of gold of 10/- ; to "*Julian*" Nuberye of Berkshire an annuity of 40/- during *her* life.", to be paid out of his lands. He makes Mr. John Waller and his "brother" Roger overseers of his will. The

residue of his estate he leaves to his brother John Stansby. Witnesses : William Waller, Esq., Henry Turnham and John Pore, Notarye (Lawyer). What does he mean by his "cousin John Waller"? In the published pedigrees there seems to be no family relationship between Wallers and Stansbys. Probably the word means no more than "my good friend and comrade" but it shows that the Stansbys were on very friendly terms with their near neighbours the famous Wallers, Lords of the Manor of Stoke Charity. The intimacy seems to have been maintained. For in 1646 Richard Stansby bought up a loan of £1,000 which Sir Charles Phelipps had raised from John Dutton of Sherborne. Stansby stated in the deed that he did so in trust for Sir William Ogle who had married Sir Charles' widow. This lady was Charity, sister of John and William Waller mentioned in the will.

William Stansby seems to have died unmarried but we scent a romance—perhaps nipped in the bud by his early death— in his leaving "Julian" Nuberye an annuity. (Julian is probably a misspelling for Julia.) Attached to the will is an account of debts owing to and by him and an inventory of his personal property, as follows :

Debts that I owe : I owe to Henry Nubery in Barkshire £27 ; to Philip Cotton of London, Alderman Harper's man £10 ; to my cousin John Waller I owe £10 ; to William Davie of Micheldever, 20/- ; to John Thompson 10/- ; to Mr. Blackwaye, of London, in Cheapside, 44/- ; to William Simons of Micheldever £3/10/0 ; to others forgotten I owe—.

Debts which are owing to me : my brother, Roger Croppe (really his brother-in-law), oweth me, with that I left with him, the sum of £14 ; I have divers other personal debts owing to me by divers particular parties which

I do clerely forgive and do forgive all the whole world who so ever have offended me, even as I do also (pray) forgiveness of God(of) all my sins and so desire forgiveness of all the world. All these things I will to be inserted to my will to be just and trewe (true)." Will proved June 11th, 1575.

An inventory of the goods and chattels of William Stansby, gent, deceased, taken by Thomas Hacke and Richard Reynolde, of the county of Southampton, yeomen, the seventh day of June in the 17th year of ye rainge of ye soveraigne Lady Elizabeth by ye grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, etc., 1575.

First, one horse worth £3 ; his apparell worth £12.13.4 ; one gonne with furniture thereunto worth 20/- ; one dagger worth 10/- ; a rapier and dagger worth 6/8. The whole £17-10.0.

William Stansby's younger brother John entered Winchester College as a scholar in 1563 at the age of eleven. He passed on to Oxford as Fellow of New College (1572-1574) and took his degree in Civil Law. Probably his marriage followed soon afterwards for his son Robert must have been born before 1580. But neither his marriage nor the baptism of his child or children is recorded in the local registers. Apparently, at least in his early manhood, he did not live at Micheldever. Perhaps he continued at Oxford as a Tutor or went to London and practised as a lawyer. We know that his son Robert joined with him in a settlement of the Manor of Micheldever, together with 16 messuages and 912 acres of land in various parts of Micheldever. We also know that his son had succeeded to the estate before 1647.

In the Church Register there is a record of the burial of "John Stansby, gent", in 1633. If this refers to the John we are thinking about, then he lived to the ripe age

of 81. His son Robert succeeded to the Manor. The name of Robert's wife is not known but there was no lack of olive branches, for the register records the Baptism of ten of his children—five sons and five daughters—between 1602 and 1617. He died probably in 1649 and his son Richard came into the estate. The latter was born in 1603 and entered Oriel College, Oxford, in 1617, being described as "armiger" that is, entitled to a Coat of Arms. He presented the College with a "silver eare goblet" weighing 17½ ounces. Was it one of the cups which his great grandfather left, or a new one?

The Provost of Oriel reports that the cup is not now to be found. No doubt in the stormy days of Charles I and the Roundheads it found its way, with many another piece of Oxford plate, into the melting pot to furnish money for the King's army.

At Micheldever Richard Stansby probably lived the life of a country gentleman, interested in his property and tenants but taking no active part in the quarrel between Cavaliers and Roundheads. He died in 1674, aged 72, after an illness of some duration. To each of his children he left 12 pence apiece ; to his wife Anne two of his best beds and bedsteads and one ordinary bed, the use of all the furniture in the Hall chamber during her life, and after her death "I do give it all unto my sonne Richard Stansby, except the bed and rugg". He leaves also to his wife "my best red taffitie quilt, two pairs of my best sheetes and one pair of ordinary ones, one diaper table cloth and two other of the best, half a dozen of damask napkins, one cupboard cloth, five trencher plates, two silver dishes, two silver trencher saltes, three silver spoones ; two kittles, one brass pot, and a stone pott, two tubbs, my best press and two tables and formes, one in the parlour, the other in my sister's

chamber, the cupboard in my own chamber, two needle-worke cushions, two of the chayres in the parlour and three stooles, three of my best pewter dishes and six ordinary ones, the second best flaggon, my new pewter bason, two barrells, one Humberkin". He gives to Christian, wife of John Russell of Micheldever, and Mary, wife of Thomas Dance, five shillings each "for their pains taken with me in my sickness". To his two servants five shillings each. "Unto my loving friend and neighbour John Cooper of Northbrook twenty shillings to buy him a ring. The rest of his goods and chattels etc. to his son James Stansby, sole executor. Witnesses : Edward Morey, Dorothy Annesby, John Cooper. April 27th, 1674. Edward Morey was Vicar of Micheldever. Contrary to present practice, it was then allowable for a witness to benefit under a will, e.g. John Cooper.

Richard Stansby has "gone one better" than his great grandfather in boasting silver dishes and silver trencher salts, pewter dishes and basons, flagons, chairs and needle-work cushions. There is again a curious lack of silver spoons, only three being mentioned.

James Stansby, Richard's son and executor, did not long survive his father, his will being proved within twelve months. He describes himself as of "Upper Wallop, gent". He mentions that his father committed to him "a trust of £600 lying in the hands of Sir Richard Knight, of Chawton and of £150 lying in the hands of the Hon. William Russell, Esq., second son of the Right William, Earle of Bedford". He directs that the remaining part of the said trust should be performed "according to a declaration by me made thereupon". (This deed cannot be found) He gives to his brother Richard twenty pounds, and a like sum to his brother William. To his "kinswoman"

Mrs. Jane Sessions, £5. The residue of his property he leaves to his sister, Elizabeth Stansby. John Cooper is again a witness. James was thirty-eight when he died and was apparently unmarried or else a childless widower. He seems to have been the youngest son and his sister Elizabeth was the eldest of the family. After her came Richard, then William. There were two other sons between William and James, namely John and Francis. The will was proved July 8th, 1675.

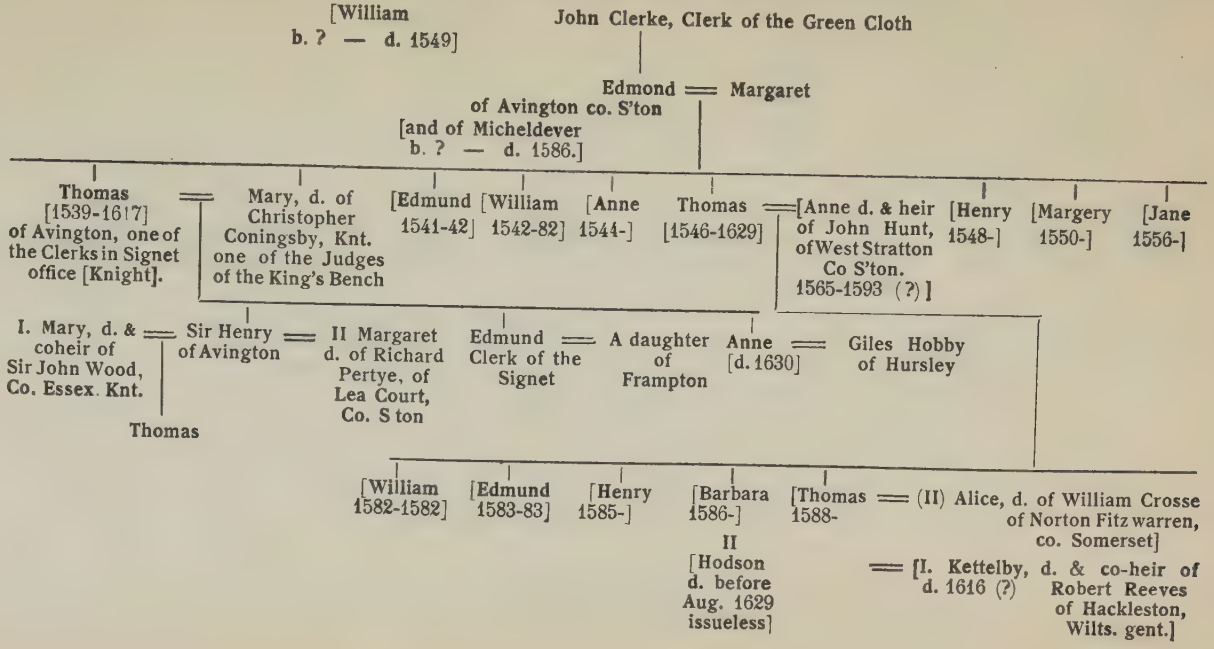
Six months before he died James Stansby parted with the Micheldever estate, for it was bought in December 1674 by Sir Richard Knight, of Chawton, and two others. This ends the family connection with Micheldever, a connection which had lasted about 132 years. All attempts to trace the family further have failed. It saw some strenuous days, living here through the turmoil of the Reformation, the burning of "heretics" under Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary, the (in some respects) glorious days of Elizabeth, with the terror of the Spaniard and the smashing of the great Armada, and the more terrible civil war under Charles I and Cromwell. But as regards the views of the family on these questions and its action or inaction there is nothing but an irritating silence.

The only hint we get is in the following note from the records of the Committee of Compounding, May 27th, 1651. It states that Dorothy Stansby, daughter of Robert Stansby, petitions the Committee with respect to money (£500) owed her by Francis Mildmay, papist and delinquent of Amersden, Oxford. Robert Stansby, of Micheldever, had a daughter Dorothy born in 1615. If this is the Dorothy of the record given above, perhaps the sympathies of the Stansbys lay with the Roundheads, and we cannot please ourselves with the thought of a young Stansby, with flowing

curls, high boots and leather gauntletts, riding forth one fine morning from Micheldever House at the head of a little company of retainers, clattering down Rook lane on his way to fight at Newbury.

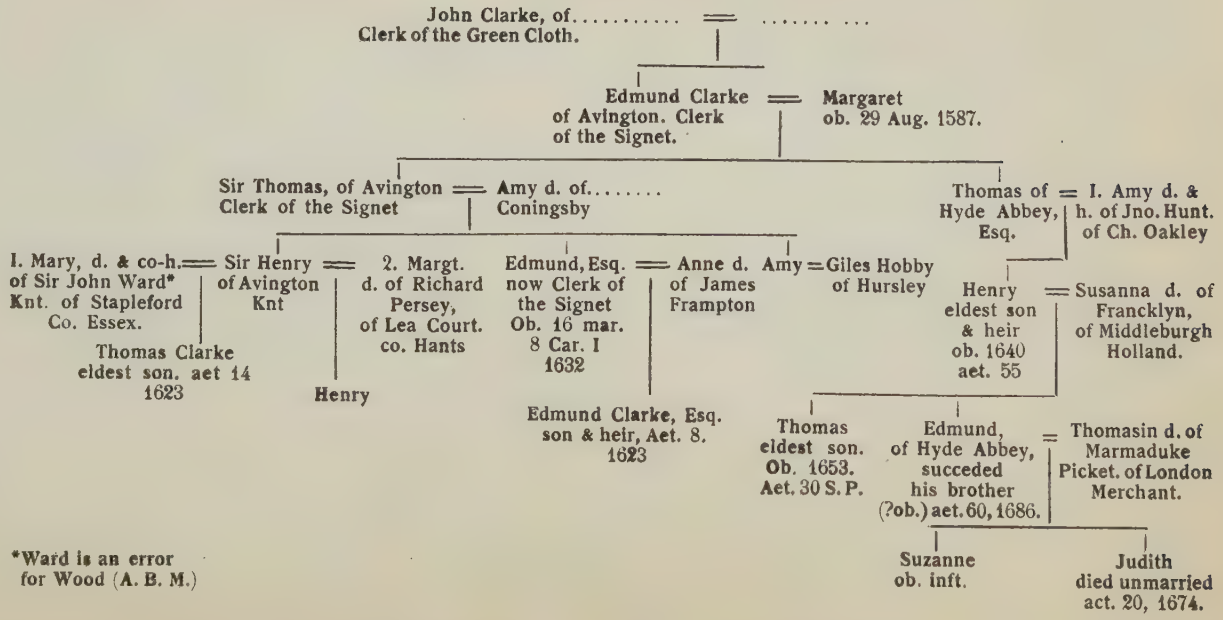
It ought perhaps to be noted that Anne and Judith, the two daughters of Robert Stansby (died 1565) both married in due course. Anne married Roger Croppe and died in 1592. leaving a daughter Elizabeth. Judith married Richard Moggeridge in 1574 and had six children : William, John, Edmund, George, Elizabeth, Christian. The Mogger idge family shortly afterwards left the parish, as the name disappears from the Registers.

THE CLERKE PEDIGREE — from the Visitation of 1634 — with additions (in brackets) gathered from Church Registers and legal documents.


[William
b. ? — d. 1549]
John Clerke, Clerk of the Green Cloth
Edmond
of Avington co. S'ton
[and of Micheldever
b. ? — d. 1586.]
Margaret
Thomas
[1539-1617]
of Avington, one of the Clerks in Signet office [Knight].
Mary, d. of Christopher Coningsby, Knt. one of the Judges of the King's Bench
[Edmund 1541-42]
[William 1542-82]
[Anne 1544-]
Thomas
[1546-1629]
[Anne d. & heir of John Hunt, of West Stratton Co S'ton. 1565-1593 (?)]
[Henry 1548-]
[Margery 1550-]
[Jane 1556-]
I. Mary, d. & coheir of Sir John Wood, Co. Essex. Knt.
Thomas
Sir Henry of Avington
II Margaret d. of Richard Pertye, of Lea Court, Co. S ton
Edmund Clerk of the Signet
A daughter of Frampton
Anne
[d. 1630]
Giles Hobby of Hursley
[William 1582-1582]
[Edmund 1583-83]
[Henry 1585-]
[Barbara 1586-]
II
[Hodson d. before Aug. 1629 issueless]
[Thomas 1588-
(II) Alice, d. of William Crosse of Norton Fitz warren, co. Somerset]
[I. Kettelby, d. & co-heir of d. 1616 (?)
Robert Reeves of Hackleston, Wilts. gent.]

From Hants Visitation. 1575, 1623 & 1686 " Ex. MSS. Phillipps. From the MSS. of the Rev. Wm Bingley ".

CLARKE, of Avington


John Clarke, of..... = ...
Clerk of the Green Cloth.
Edmund Clarke = Margaret
of Avington. Clerk ob. 29 Aug. 1587.
of the Signet.
Sir Thomas, of Avington = Amy d. of.....
Clerk of the Signet Coningsby
Thomas of = I. Amy d. &
Hyde Abbey, h. of Jno. Hunt.
Esq. of Ch. Oakley
I. Mary, d. & co-h. = Sir Henry = 2. Margt.
of Sir John Ward* of Avington d. of Richard
Knt. of Stapleford Knt Persey,
Co. Essex. of Lea Court.
co. Hants
Thomas Clarke
eldest son. aet 14
1623
Henry
Edmund, Esq. = Anne d. Amy = Giles Hobby
now Clerk of of James of Hursley
the Signet Frampton
Ob. 16 mar.
8 Car. I
1632
Edmund Clarke, Esq.
son & heir, Aet. 8.
1623
Henry = Susanna d. of
eldest son Francklyn,
& heir of Middleburgh
ob. 1640 Holland.
aet. 55
Thomas Edmund, = Thomasin d. of
eldest son. of Hyde Abbey, Marmaduke
Ob. 1653. succeded Picket. of London
Aet. 30 S. P. his brother Merchant.
(?ob.) aet. 60, 1686.
Suzanne Judith
ob. inft. died unmarried
act. 20, 1674.

*Ward is an error for Wood (A. B. M.)

CHAPTER VI

THE CLERKE FAMILY

EDMUND Clerke we first hear of in 1536 when Wriothesley leases to him the Parsonage farm. He seems to have acted as Wriothesley's agent and to have superintended the building of Wriothesley's house. In State Papers of Henry VIII, 1537, we come across "Edmund Clerke to be a Clerk of the Privy Seal upon the next vacancy", a piece of preferment which he probably owed to Wriothesley. Henry VIII in 1545 granted to Edmund Clerke and his wife Margaret the Manor of East Stratton and a coppice called Emly coppice, in consideration of £489 and a yearly payment of £2.0.1½ to the King. Clerke sold the Manor in the following year to Wriothesley.

At various times between 1545 and 1580 Clerke owned or leased the Manors of Temple Sotherington at Selborne, of Hook Mortimer at Titchfield, of Headbourne Worthy and of Avington near Kingsworthy. But he seems to have lived at Micheldever from about 1536 till 1556 at any rate. The Church register records the christening of five sons of his and three daughters between 1538 and the latter date. He bought the Manor of Avington in 1545, and as his son Thomas-the-younger in 1567 is described

as "of Avington" this may point (though not of necessity) to Edmund Clerke having taken up residence there before that year.

Indications lead one to conclude that he was a provoking man. He gave the name of Thomas both to his eldest son and to his fifth child, thereby greatly increasing the difficulties of his humble chronicler. Thomas-the-younger, at some date before 1586 married Anne, only daughter and heiress of John Hunt of West Stratton. Marriage settlements were arranged by the respective fathers in the usual way but it appears that Edmund Clerke was not very zealous in performing his part. For Hunt, who died in August 1586, makes the following pathetic appeal in his will, dated July 8th, 1586: "I do most instantly desire Mr. Edmund Clerke, Esquire, to have effectual consideration of the covenants on his part to be performed, specified in the indentures made between him and me upon the marriage concluded between his son and my daughter, as I have in every respect performed my covenant and promise to him concerning his said son; and to be good to my daughter according to the special trust which I have always reposed in him, as he upon his conscience must answer the same". Hunt's last hours were evidently troubled as to the welfare of his daughter.

For Edmund Clerke, too, the sands of life were fast running out. The precise date of his death is uncertain. It may be inferred from Hunt's will that Clerke was alive in July 1586. The report of a lawsuit about the Vicarage tithes in 1599 states that he died in August 1587. Another legal document (concerning Avington) records his death as taking place in 1586 (Chan. Inq. p.m. 29 Eliz. No. 167). Probably the latter date is correct. He was buried at Avington, for his eldest son, Sir Thomas, leaves directions

in his will that he himself is to buried "in the vault on the South side of the Quyer of Avington Church, with the bodies of *my father* and mother and wife". Edmund Clerke's will has been diligently searched for, but not found. His descendants bought the Manor of South Stoneham where they continued till about 1735. Then the family vanishes.

Arms of the Clerke family : Azure a chevron between three swans close argent ; Crest : a demi-dragon sans wings ar. issuant from flames of fire proper.

In Winchester Cathedral, in the fifth bay of the north aisle, (above the brass recently placed to the memory of Jane Austin) there is a monument with this inscription :

"A union of two brothers from Avington. The Clerks' family were Grandfather, Father and Son, successively Clerks of the Privy Seal. William the Grandfather had but two sons, both Thomas's, their wives both Amy's, and their heirs both Henry's and the heirs of the Henry's both Thomases. Both their wives were inheritrixes, and both had two sons and one daughter, and both their daughters issueless. Both of Oxford, both of the Temple, both officers to Queen Elizabeth and our noble King James. Both Justices of the Peace, both agree in arms, the one a Knight, the other a Captain. Si quaeras Avingtonum Petas cancellum. Impenis Thomas Clerke, of Hide, 1622." (Should you go to Avington, visit the Chancel. Erected by Thomas Clerk, of Hide.)

Canon Vaughan in his "Winchester Cathedral", p. 282, says that the Thomas Clerke who erected the memorial died in 1629 and is buried immediately beneath it. Over his grave is a flat stone with the following inscription—"Here lyeth the Bodi of Tho. Clerke of Hid Abbey, Esqre, who died the 11th of Febri. 1629".

You may go to Avington and visit the Chancel but you will be no wiser. For the memorials to the Clerke family disappeared in 1769 when the church was destroyed. The old registers have gone too. This is the more to be regretted because some of the statements on the Cathedral monument are impossible to reconcile with the facts as they appear in the Micheldever registers and other documents of the sixteenth century; that is, if the Avington Clerkes are identical with the Micheldever Clerkes, as the writer claims is the case.

The charge against the monument is this: the Grandfather's name is doubtful, the Father's name is missing, the wives of the two Thomases were not both Amy's—one was Mary and the other was Anne,—and if the expression "William the grandfather had but two sons" should be read as "William was the grandfather, his son Edmund had but two sons" then it is wrong again, for Edmund had five sons and three daughters.

The facts are as follows:—

In 1545 Avington Manor was granted to a certain Edmund Clerke and his wife Margaret. He died seised of it in 1586 leaving a son and heir Thomas, who died in 1617 when it passed to his son Henry (V.C.H., Vol. III, p. 307). Now the Micheldever Clerke was named Edmund and his wife was Margaret and his son and heir was Thomas as is proved by the following entry in the Church register: —"Yt ys to be known that Mr. Thomas Clerke sone of Mayster Edumde Clerke and sone of Maystres merget clerke was crystonyd the Vth day of Marche yn ye year of our lord God Mleccccxxxixth and yn ye year of our sovrend Lord Kyng henry the VIIIth the XXXIth yere of hys reigne".

In 1546 there is another entry:—"Mayster Thomas

Clarke the yongr sonne, the sone of Mr. Edmude clarke was christened the XXII day of April". There is no doubt, then, that the Micheldever Edmund and Margaret Clerke, with Thomas as son and heir (and *his* son and heir Henry, as will appear presently) are the same as the Clerkes of Avington. Now let us see what are the known facts with regard to the two sons, both Thomases.

Thomas Clerke-the-elder is clearly identical with Sir Thomas Clerke who bought the Castle and Manor of Merdon, at Hursley, in 1600, from his son-in-law Giles Hoby.

In the absence of proof I begin to doubt the connection of this Thomas with "Avyington in Berkshire", as asserted by Marsh in his "Memoranda of the Parishes of Hursley and North Baddesley". Marsh has a note on this name "Avyington" as follows :—"So says the register but I suspect erroneously. Ardington was the place in which the family of the Clarkes was settled. Sir Edward Clarke, probably the son of Sir Thomas, was High Sheriff of Berks in 1626." I cannot help thinking that "Avyington" is right and that it is the County which is wrong. For I can find no other passage in which our Sir Thomas is connected with Ardington and certainly he had no son called Sir Edward. Sir Edward Clerke, of Ardington, had a son Thomas who matriculated at Wadham College in 1627, aged 15. (Foster's, Alumni Oxonienses.)

The will of Sir Thomas of Merdon, made on March 12, 1614, directs that he shall be buried in Avington Church next to his father, mother and wife, bequeaths to the parishes of Avington and Micheldever 40/- each, speaks of his daughter Anne "now wife of Giles Hobby of Hursley" and of his son Henry, married to the daughter of Sir John Wood, Knt. He leaves to son Henry all his interest in

the Manor of Hunton and also a "parcel of inheritance which I have in Harrowlid in the county of Bedford which my father made an estate to a kinsman of his, one John Clerke, for a small rent and for divers years yet to come".

(This clue to further activities on the part of Edmund Clerke has not yet been followed up.) To his own brother, Thomas Clerke, he leaves £20 and makes him overseer of his will; to his grandchild and godson, Thomas Clerke, £1000 or its value in land. It will be seen that the will tallies with the pedigree as given in the Heralds' Visitation 1634. Sir Thomas Clerke died in 1617.

The younger Clerke, i.e. Sir Thomas' younger brother, married Anne Hunt, only daughter and heiress of John Hunt of West Stratton—a hamlet about a mile from Micheldever village. There is an entry in the Micheldever register as follows—"1554. Itm John Hunt's wiffe of West Stratton was buryed the fyfte daye of July in the yere above written". It would appear that Hunt married again, for he had a wife, Elizabeth, alive when he made his will in 1586, and the register records that Anne Hunt was baptised 2 April 1565. Anne Hunt was already the wife of Thomas Clerke-the-Younger in 1586, and the register again would seem to point to this marriage having taken place not later than the autumn of 1581. For the following entries occur among the baptisms:—

William son of Thomas Clerke, gent, June 12, 1582.
Edmund, son of Thomas Clerke, gent, June 4, 1583.
Henry, son of Thomas Clerke, gent, July 7, 1585.
Barbara, daughter of Thomas Clerke, March 9, 1586.
Thomas, son of Thomas Clerke, April 10, 1588.

These were evidently not the children of Thomas Clerke-the-elder, as is clear from his will. Therefore "Thomas Clerke, gent." must be Thomas-the-younger, and these

five children *his*. The probability is that he lived with his father-in-law and, the lease of the farm being left to him, continued there after Hunt's death. A Hunton indenture of 1593 describes him as "of West Stratton". That being so, his children would naturally be baptised at Micheldever.

If Anne Hunt married in the autumn of 1581 she can have been only 16½ years of age at the time, which might to some extent account for her father-in-law's neglect of her interests and also for these two register entries—

William Clerke, buried June 24, 1582.

Edmund Clerke, gent. buried July 18, 1583.

If the two elder children thus died in infancy, the third child Henry would be left heir to his father, and the family would be reduced to two sons and one daughter, thus agreeing in both particulars with the Cathedral monument.

Anne was evidently a delicate girl and the strain of five children was too much for her. The same Hunton indenture (1593) which describes Thomas Clerke-the-younger as of West Stratton speaks of "Anne his late wife deceased". The last of their children to be registered is Thomas, April 10, 1588. Therefore Anne must have died between this date and 1593, being at most not more than 28 years of age. She was buried probably at Avington.

The references above to the Hunton indenture make it necessary to say that John Hunt bought the Manor of Hunton in 1575, and on his death Thomas Clerke-the-younger inherited it in right of his wife. In 1592 licence was granted him to alienate the Manor to Thomas Clerke-the-elder (his brother). Hence the latter's interest in it as expressed in his will. In 1746 a George Clerke sold the Manor to John Pitter, of Crawley, and it remained in the Pitter family until 1918 when it was bought by Mr. Norris Oakley who now resides in the Manor house. John Hunt

died seised also of half the Manor of Kippings, Church Oakley. His son-in-law, Thomas Clerke-the-younger, seems to have held the other half, for in the same year Clerke settled the whole Manor on himself, his wife and his heirs. In 1625 when his son (yet another) Thomas married Alice, daughter of William Crosse (of Norton Fitz-warren, Somerset) Kippings was settled upon them. In 1633 the estate was conveyed by Thomas Clerke (son of Thomas Clerke of West Stratton) and *Henry his brother* to Adam Airye, etc. The Manor of Rastalls, also at Church Oakley, which belonged in 1625 to Thomas Clerke (of West Stratton) was settled on his son Thomas at the same time as the Manor of Kippings. (Chan. Inq. p.m. Ser. 2, DCXXVII, 51. See also V.C.H.)

The two Thomases, therefore, of Micheldever were sons of Edmund Clerke who was Clerk of the Signet and owned the Manor of Avington. They both had two sons and one daughter. Their heirs were both Henrys and the heirs of the Henrys were (as we shall see from the pedigree) both Thomases. They were both of the Temple, the elder being admitted to the Middle Temple on Feb. 7, 1560 as "son and heir of Edmund Clerke of Mycheldevor, Hants", and the younger to the Inner Temple, in 1567 as "Thomas Clerke of Avington, Hants". The elder brother describes himself in his will as a Knight and the pedigree declares him a Clerk of the Signet. I have not been able to trace the brothers in "Alumni Oxonienses" nor to find a sixteenth century list of J. P's.

Let us now return to the monument.

It begins :—the Clerke family were grandfather, father and son successively Clerks of the Privy Seal, but, in proceeding to set out particulars, omits all mention of "Father" and states that the grandfather had two sons,

both Thomases. If the Thomases were sons of the grandfather—but how can a man be the son of his grandfather? Here is a palpable error. We need the name of the father and that name is no doubt Edmund. (He continues to be provoking; he makes no will or he hides it and, next, he erases his name from the monument!)

The inscription continues:—"the two sons both Thomases, their wives both Amy's". Here is another error. The wife of the elder Thomas was Mary, according to the pedigree, and the wife of the younger Thomas was Anne. It is of course possible and, in the case of the younger brother probable, that they married a second time and that their second wives each bore the name of Amy. If this be the explanation, the monument is not quite playing the game, as clearly the two sons and one daughter must be regarded as the children of the first wife. Again, the grandfather's name was not William but John, if the Heralds' Visitation of 1634 is trustworthy. On this point I am inclined to suggest a verdict in favour of the Monument for the following reasons: A grant of 14 Nov. 34 Henry 8, states:—"William Clerc to be a Clerc of the Privy seal upon the next vacancy, to take effect after the similar grant to Edmund Clerke". What more natural than that Edmund Clerke, having obtained perferment through Wriothesley, should prevail upon his patron to procure a similar position for his father. Also, "William Clerke gent. was buried July 8, 1549", appears in the Micheldever register. This William was more likely to be Edmund's father than to be Edmund's son, who was also called William and was born in 1542. William, son of Edmund, we may reasonably take to be referred to in a later entry—"William Clerke gent. buried June 24, 1582". For these reasons, supported by the monument,

we may conclude that the grandfather was William, as against the pedigree which gives his name as John.

It is not a little difficult to account for the errors. The fact that the inscription has been repainted at some later date is not sufficient. The monument was erected in 1622, only five years after the death of the elder brother and, so far as one can gather, while the younger brother was still living. The difficulty is increased if we suppose that it was Thomas-the-younger himself who erected it! Documentary evidence would seem to prove it, though with so many Thomases in the field great caution is needed.

The case stands thus :—

In the Duke of Bedford's estate office in London there is an indenture dated 1592 whereby Zachariah Bethell and John Ward conveyed the house or site of the late monastery of Hyde to Thomas Clerke. There is another dated 1614 whereby the said Thomas Clerke and Sir Thomas Clerke, Knt. intended to grant two cottages and gardens in Worthy Mortimer to the Mayor and Commonalty of Winchester for ever. Then in 1625 comes another indenture whereby Thomas Clerke covenants with Henry Clerke, his son, to stand seised of the house called Hyde Abbey to the use of himself for life, with remainder to the said Henry. This is followed in 1629 by a copy of the will of the said Thomas Clerke. It would appear that Thomas-the-younger, of West Stratton, bought Hyde Abbey in 1592 and joined with his brother Sir Thomas, in selling two cottages to the Corporation of Winchester in 1614. In 1625 he makes a settlement of the Hyde property and dies in 1629 (at the age of 83). This would seem to identify him with the Thomas Clerke whose flat gravestone in the Cathedral states that he was of Hyde and that he died in 1629. Canon Vaughan in his "Winchester Cathedral"

says that the person whose body lies under that stone erected the monument.

The natural difficulty of tracing a pedigree in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries is intensified in the present instance by the fact of two brothers bearing the same Christian name and one of them giving the same name to his son, while a grandchild of each brother also bears the name. The V.C.H. labours under this difficulty and falls into error in consequence. Of Worthy Pauncefoot (at Headbourne Worthy) it writes that "the estate was sold to Thomas Clerke in 1594. Thomas Clerke was afterwards Knighted and died seised of the Manor in 1617 when he was succeeded by his son Thomas who was also a Knight. This Sir Thomas bought Headbourne Worthy from the trustees of the Earl of Salisbury". With regard to Headbourne Worthy it states that "the Manor was bought from the trustees of the Earl of Salisbury in or soon after 1614 by Sir Thomas Clerke, the lessee of the Manor, who was holding Worthy Pauncefoot. He settled both Manors on his son Henry in 1625 and died seised in 1630." (Vol. IV, 427-8.)

Sir Thomas' son Henry became a Knight but I know of no evidence that his son Thomas also did—in point of fact he had *no* son so called! Further, the elder Thomas could not have died in 1617 and again in 1630. But if people insist on giving their own Christian names to their children these mistakes will happen.

I intended to insert here the Clerke pedigree as it appears in the Visitation of 1634, with additions in brackets based on Church registers and legal documents. But almost at the moment of going to press I have come across another pedigree of the family. It is contained in a brown-paper covered folio of some 20-30 pages, purporting to be "Ex.

M.S.S. Phillips. From the M.S.S. of the Rev. William Bingley" and printed in 1854. It lies within the covers of a volume of Berry's "Genealogies"in the Moen Library, The Castle, Winchester. I must have seen it before but have missed the name Clerke—not unnaturally, for it is exceedingly badly printed. The two pedigrees are now placed side by side so as to make comparison easy. There is nothing in the second pedigree to overthrow what we considered established in the first ; on the contrary, there is corroboration of conclusions independently reached. The second pedigree perpetuates the mistake of the monument and gives the wives of the Thomas brothers as Amy. (We cannot *be certain* of the name of the elder Thomas' wife.) Also Thomas Clerke-the-elder's daughter appears as Amy though there is no doubt her name was Anne, as is the case with the name of the wife of Thomas-the-younger. This persistence in turning "Anne" into "Amy" leads to the conjecture that the two names were easily confused in the handwriting of the day and that the mistake thus arose. Perhaps Mary and Amy were likewise easily confused.

The conjecture made above that Thomas Clerke-the-younger married again after the death of Anne his wife is borne out in this second pedigree by the figure "I" prefixed to Amy. Evidently "I" signifies "first wife"—though the pedigree is not, unfortunately, carried on to the second wife. Pedigree number two gives the age of Thomas' son Henry as 55 at the date of his (Henry's) death in 1640. This tallies precisely with the Micheldever register which records the birth of Henry in 1585, and incidentally confirms our suggestion that the five children there baptized between 1582 and 1588 were the children of Thomas Clerke-the-younger, of West Stratton.

Corroboration of the marriage of Edmund Clerke of Hyde and Thomasine comes from two sources. First, from the register of St. Bartholomew, Hyde, where we read :—"Judith Clerke the daughter of Edmund Clerke of Hide Abbey and Thomasin his wife was born the 14th day of May, 1654". (The pedigree notes that Judith died in 1674, aged 20.) Second, an indenture, in the Bedford estate office, whereby Edmund Clerke in consideration of a marriage intended between him and Thomasine Peckett, and of £1000 portion, conveyed the house and site of Hyde Abbey to the use of himself for life, with remainder as to part to said Thomasine, etc., Sept. 20, 1649.

The second pedigree is useful in giving us the date of the death of Margaret, wife of Edmund Clerke, of Micheldever, but it states that John Hunt was of Church Oakley whereas he was of West Stratton, though he owned property at the former place, as he did also at Hunton.

It may be well to give here other entries in the Hyde registers relating to the family of Clerke, following no doubt the line of Thomas Clerke-the-younger, of West Stratton. Owing to the constant recurrence of "Thomas" and "Henry" it is impossible at present to make further use of these entries.

Ambrose Hurst and Anne Clerke married 29 July 1646.

The daughter of Mr. Thomas Clerke, Junr. baptised 4 Aug., 1612.

The daughter of Mr. Henry Clerke, baptized 8 Feb., 1612.

Amy, daughter of Mr. Henry Clerke, baptized 31 March, 1614.

Francis, daughter of Mr. Henry Clerke, baptized 12 Aug. 1615.

Ann, daughter of Mr. Thomas Clerke, baptized 26 Aug. 1616.

James, son of Thomas Clerke, baptized 5 April 1618.

Jane Clerke was buried 24 July 1576.

Alice Clerke was buried 1 Sep., 1591.

... the wife of Mr. Thomas Clerke, Esquire, was buried 2 Sep., 1616.

(The name of this Mrs. Clerke is what we particularly wanted to know!)

Henry Clerke of the Court was buried Ap. 21, 1634.

Henry Clerke, gentlm. was buried July 11, 1642.

Investigation at considerable length into the history of this Clerke family has been made, partly because, once begun, it provided a problem of fascinating interest which could not be dropped and partly because it shows how a local history is more than local.

This one family brings Micheldever into touch with Hunton, Church Oakley, Hursley, Avington, Ardington (Berks), Kingsworthy, Headbourne Worthy, Hyde Abbey, South Stoneham and the Cathedral. The facts have been culled from State Papers of Henry VIII, from private letters written from Micheldever to Henry's Chancellor, from Wills in the Probate Office at Winchester or in Somerset House, from Deeds in the Duke of Bedford's office or in the possession of private persons locally (e.g. Mr. Norris Oakley) from the Public Record Office, from Church registers, from hints dropped in local histories, from mural monuments and from Herald's Visitations.

The manifest errors of the Cathedral monument and of the Herald's Visitations show the need for caution in dealing with such records. The value and general trustworthiness

of Church registers, on the other hand, are clearly exemplified in this effort to unravel the Clerke tangle.

Since writing the above I have, through the courtesy of Lt. Col. E. Gordon, agent to the Duke of Bedford, been permitted to make a copy of the will of the Thomas Clerke who died in 1629 and is buried in the Cathedral. It entirely bears out the conclusions already tentatively reached, in addition to providing a little more information. It was made on Aug. 20, 1629, by Thomas Clerke, of Hyde Abbey, Esq. and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on May 7, 1630. It makes mention of the testator's son Thomas and *that son's "late wife Kettelby*, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Robert Reeves, of Hackleston, Wilts".

To the same son Thomas and "*Alice his now wife*" the testator leaves his Manors of Kippings and Rastalls with all other his lands, etc. in Church Oakley, East Oakley and Lawrence Wotton. He leaves six tenements and Long Close, all in or near Hyde Street, Winchester, to the same Thomas on condition that he shall provide due and sufficient board, lodging and clothing for the testator's daughter, "Barbara Hodson, as long as she shall live. Barbara is to spend half of every working day in the morning when she is in health (after her prayer time) in tending the children of the said Thomas or in working with her needle for him and his". If Thomas declines the conditions, then the tenements are to pass to the testator's son Henry, on the same conditions. The will continues :—"I make my said son Henry the sole executor of this my will, and my nephew Sir Henry Clerke, Knight, my overseer—and do hereby give unto the said Sir Henry my dudgin hafte daggar". (A dagger with a small handle).

Here we have a Thomas Clerke who died in 1629 leaving

two sons and one daughter—Henry, Thomas and Barbara—the daughter a widow and apparently childless. This agrees with the Cathedral monument, "their heirs both Henrys, both had two sons and one daughter and both daughters issueless". The testator in this will is not Thomas-the-elder, for he died in 1617. Therefore he is Thomas-the-younger, of West Stratton and Hyde. Therefore the Cathedral monument was erected during the life time of the younger brother. All of which we surmised before, but it brings us no nearer a solution of the monumental errors! However we have secured some additional items for the Clerke pedigree.

We learn that Thomas (born 1588) married twice, and that Alice Crosse was not his first wife (as we should have supposed) but his second. His first wife was Kettelby Reeves. Has any one ever come across that extraordinary Christian name before? It helps us however to understand the Hyde register entry previously given :—"... the wife of Mr. Thomas Clerke Esqure was buried the 2nd. day of Sep. 1616". No self-respecting clerk of those days could possibly be expected to spell or even remember such a name. Its very unusual character would naturally lead to its omission from the register. We may reasonably conclude that the entry refers to Mrs. Kettelby Clerke. It may very likely be in intimate connection with a previous entry :— "Ann, daughter of Mr. Thomas Clerke, was baptized Aug. 26, 1616,"— Kettelby, the mother, dying very shortly after the birth of the child.

We may now add to the pedigree that Barbara Clerke's husband was a Hodson and that he died before Aug. 1629. These later additions are placed in round brackets in the first pedigree. The Clerke family is a fruitful source of error, and no wonder. Miss Pennell in her "Parish of

Hyde" quotes the will of Thomas Clerke who died in 1629 but makes the mistake of supposing that his elder son was Thomas, whereas Henry was the elder son and heir.

Once more a note must be added. It may be remembered that we doubted whether Sir Thomas Clerke had any connection with Ardington in Berks. The assertion that he had, originates with Marsh in his "Memoranda of the Parishes of Hursley and North Baddesley" (1808), and is followed without question by Charlotte Young in her "John Keble's Parishes" and by V.C.H.

Marsh says that Giles Hoby sold the Castle and manor of Merdon to his father-in-law, "Sir Thomas Clerke of Avyington in Berks". and he has a note on "Avyington" to this effect :—"So says the Register but I suspect erroneously. Ardington was the place where the Clerke family was settled". I have now had an opportunity of examining the Hursley register. There are only three entries in which the name of Thomas Clerke occurs. Two of them are not to our purpose ; the third is that of the marriage of Henry Clerke, Sir Thomas' son. The entry is in Latin and, translated, runs :— "1602 Jan. 5, Henry Clerke, gent, son of Thomas Clerke of Avyngton and Hursley, and Mary, daughter of John Wood in county Middlesex (and here it becomes a little difficult to read) first clerk to the Privy Seal to our Lady Queen Elizabeth, were married". There is here no reference whatever to Berkshire and no word which remotely resembles it. It would seem that Marsh, being unaware of an Avington in Hampshire and knowing that a family of Clerkes lived at Ardington in Berks hastily assumed that Avington in the register was a mistake for Ardington. The probability is that the register, as so often, is right and Marsh and his copyists wrong. Nowhere else is there

the faintest hint that the Avington Clerkes had any connection with Ardington in Berkshire.

This account of the Clerke family assumes, at least in its later stages, the character rather of a serial. It has been written from time to time as investigation in different quarters gradually brought the facts to light. It has been left in this shape partly because it may not be uninteresting to see "the wheels going round".

CHAPTER VII

A 16th CENTURY LAWSUIT

At the end of the sixteenth century there was a dispute between the Vicar of Micheldever on the one side, and Thomas Clerke, Esq. and William Browne, Gent. on the other side. Clerke was the eldest son of Edmund Clerke, and lessee of the Parsonage farm of which Browne was in occupation as subtenant. The question in dispute was the ownership of certain Tithes. To investigate the matter a commission was appointed consisting of the following members : George Pawlett, William St. John, Esquires, and John Harmer, professor of divinitie, and Francis Harris, Gent. The Court sat at Micheldever on June 12, 1599. A series of questions had been prepared by each side and these were put consecutively to each of the witnesses. They are to be found in Exchequer Depositions, 41 Eliz. Trinity, No. 3, S'ton.

The questions "to be ministered on the part and behalfe of David Philpot, Clerke, defendant to the bill", were as follows :—

1) .....

2) Do you know the scite and mansion house of the Parsonage of Micheldever wherein William Browne now dwelleth ?

3) Do you know a demayne or farm of 7 yards land belonging to the said Parsonage house and do you know that any coman or feeding for (beasts) do belong into the same farm? Do you know a glebe of 58 acres belonging to the said farm and whether any coman or feedinge do belong unto the said gleabe?

4) Do you know or ever heard of any tenement or cottages with some parcell of lands which in ancient times belonged to the scite and manor of the Parsonage of Micheldever, namely at lease of John Wells which was lately in the tenure of Stevin Cooke, clerk; another tenement, Anthony Pickringe; another in the tenure of William Petty; another in the present occupation of Richard Hall, wherein sometimes dwelt one Christopher Trilkylde, and to whom doth the Tythe corn, grain and hay growing thereon belong, whether to the Parsonage or to the Vicarage, and whether before the dissolution the same tenements were immediately holden of the scite and manor of the Parsonage?

5) Do you know that the said farm of 7 yards land now in the tenure of William Browne did belong or appertain to any other house in Micheldever or else from what house was the seven yards land taken and put to the parsonage house, and by what lord of the Manor the same was done, and how long since?

6) Do you know by what name said farm of 7 yards land was called before that Mr. Wriothesley first dwelt in the Parsonage house; whether called by any other name than the Parsonage farm? Did you ever know it possessed or manured by any other farmer than such as dwelt in the Parsonage house or by their assigneent?

7) Do you know the Meade next the Parsonage house

on the West side thereof now in tenure of Will. Browne? To what house doth it belong? what is and hath been the comon and ancient name thereof, specially before Mr. Writhesly dwelt in the Parsonage? Is it or was it called by any other name than Parsonage Mead?

8) Did you ever know any Tythe hay to be set forth in the Parsonage Mead? Did you ever hear or know that Edmond Clerke, Esq. deceased, did some years before his death, command his servants to set forth the Tythe thereof, giving as his reason that it might be known it did belong to the Vicarage? or while Mr. Sherbburne was Vicar of Micheldever did you know or remember that Edmond Clerke caused any money to be paid Mr. Sherbburne for the Tythe hay, or if the said Clerke held also in his hands the Vicarage Tythes together with the Parsonage Tythes? How many years did he hold and possesses the said Vicarage Tythes specially the Tythes due from the Parsonage?

9) Did you ever know that the Parsonage Meade or the Great farm meade did lie open and common any longer time of the year than from Lammas, i.e. Aug. 1, to our Lady Day in Lent, as the Bush meade and Mr. Halls meade in Weston now do? Specially do you know if any owner or occupier of Court farm ever had the summer grass or hay out of the meade next the Parsonage house?

10) Did you know that the said meade on the west side of the Parsonage house was ever in the tenure or occupation of any person surnamed Bull or did you ever know the said meade to be called or known by the name of Cawsay or Cause meade? how is that Parsonage meade battalled and bounded?

11) Do you know a meade called Cawsey meade or

Bull's meade? is it, or was it, ever in the occupation of any farmer of the Parsonage or do you know any meade called Cawsey meade which belonged to the Parsonage?

12) Do you know a curtilage or dry Close whereon had been a house or cottage called Butler's Close or meade? Did it ever belong or appertain to any other house than to the Parsonage house? How much land belonged to the same Butler's cottage?

13) Did you know who gathered and enjoyed the Vicarage Tythes due from the Parsonage the yere next following the death of the said Edmund Clerke which was in Aug. 1587? Do you know or remember that his son Thomas Clerke (one of the said complts.) succeeding his father in the said Parsonage farm, paid unto Thomas Philpott any Tythe woll, hay, pigg, goose, lambe, calfe, cowwhit or any other tythe except corn all that year next and immediately following the death of the said Edmond Clerke, and whether this Thomas Clerke did keep and enjoy all the said Vicarage Tythes unto himself all that year?

14) Do you know in Micheldever three dry closes parcell of Court farm now in the occupation of John Hall, Gent. lying all-together on the west side of the Church of Micheldever towards Weston, and whether be the same in closed crofts or in old severalls, and how long have they been enclosed, and whether doth it not appear by the rotten ashes, walnut trees and headgrowes that they be very ancient enclosures. And do you know to whom the hay of dry closes in general in the Parish of Micheldever were in ancient times paid, who has them now, and, if the farmers of the Parsonage have hitherto had the Tythe of the dry closes, hath it not been by permission and some peculiar agreement with the Vicars for the same?

15) Do you know or have you in your possession a composition Recall of the Vicarage of Micheldever indented and made between the Abbot and Convent of Hyde and one Stevin, sometime Vicar, specifing what portion of Tythes should for ever remain to the said vicarage, and confirmed by the Bishop? And do you know in what words the said composition and ordination doth begin and end, and what date it beareth, and how many seals it hath or has had?

The interrogatories to be ministered to witnesses on behalf of Thomas Clerke, the elder, of Avington, Esq. and of William Browne, Gent. were intended to show that the tithe hay, except that grown in meads belonging to (the Manor of) Micheldever, "now of Mr. Stansbye", and in certain other small closes, was accustomed to be taken by the owners or tenants of the Parsonage farm in right of the Rectory tithes; that there was a meadow of four acres lying to the west of the Parsonage farm and another pasture (somewhere) called "Butlers" of about three acres; that these meadows or pastures had been for many years in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Wriothesley or Edmond Clerke, who had been accustomed to carry away the crops without setting forth any tithes; that there was a farm of seven yards land (a yard was thirty acres) called "Butlers" and that it belonged to the Parsonage farm;

that the house and barns of this farm of seven yards land were at the time of this dispute "ruinate, decayed and let down" and that the said farm had common of pasture for 500 sheep, etc. and that the farm house had been situated in the close called "Butlers";

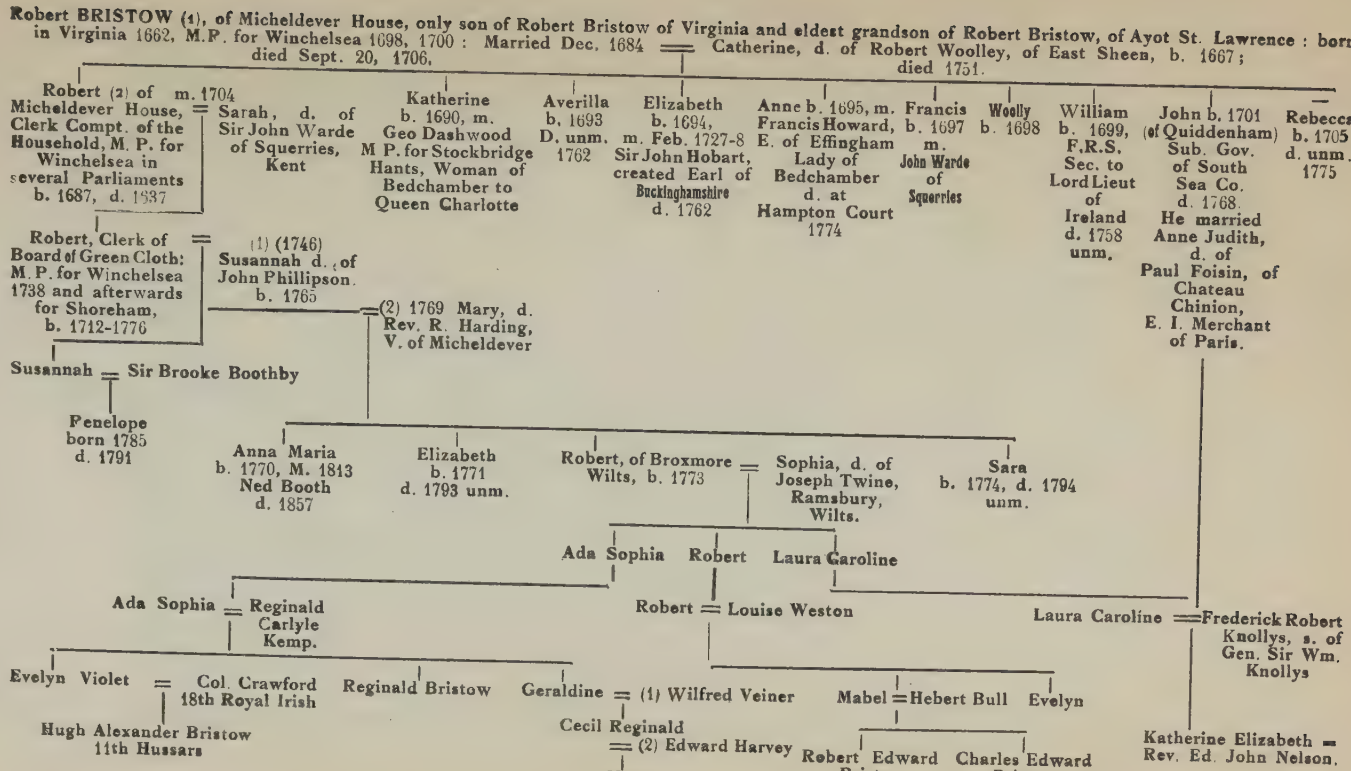
that the West meadow and a meadow called Longmead ("now in the tenure of John Hall, Gent.") did once lie

open in common to the West common field of Micheldever, that both meadows had since been fenced, that Longmead was now "in several" and belonged to the farm called Court farm (Manor farm), that the meadow lying to the West side of the Parsonage was also "in several" and belonged to the farm of seven yards land ; that the farmers of this seven yards land were accustomed to pay yearly towards her Majesty's provision of Household three bushels of wheat for the said farm over and above seven bushels of wheat paid out for the Parsonage farm, and that the said farmers paid several rates and taxes in money for the said seven yards land "for furnishing of soldiers, provision of cartes and carriages for the Queen's service and the fifteenths due to her Majesty in accordance with customary charges" ;

that the lands and glebe of the Parsonage farm were not liable to the said taxations or charges, saving only with the payment of seven bushels of wheat yearly ;

that the only glebe lands belonging to the Vicarage were as follows—in the East field three pieces of ground of seven acres each ; in the Middle field, one piece of ten acres called Ferneyes, one piece of five acres at the East end and another piece of five acres at the West end of the said piece of ten acres, four acres at Bury Hill, four acres at Longlands Bush and one other acre called Stake Acre ; and in the West field, one piece of seven acres at Catsbrayne Hill ; that the Vicar has received tithes of all manner of grain grown only in and upon the said pieces of ground only, and has not at any time had tithes of corn, grain or hay grown upon any part of the farm of seven yards land.

The result of this lawsuit is not recorded, at least in that copy of the proceedings which the writer has seen.


Robert BRISTOW (1), of Micheldever House, only son of Robert Bristow of Virginia and eldest grandson of Robert Bristow, of Ayot St. Lawrence : born in Virginia 1662, M.P. for Winchelsea 1698, 1700 : Married Dec. 1684 Catherine, d. of Robert Woolley, of East Sheen, b. 1667; died Sept. 20, 1706, died 1751.
Robert (2) of Micheldever House, Clerk Compt. of the Household, M. P. for Winchelsea in several Parliaments b. 1687, d. 1937 m. 1704 Sarah, d. of Sir John Warde of Squerries, Kent
Katherine b. 1690, m. Geo Dashwood M P. for Stockbridge Hants, Woman of Bedchamber to Queen Charlotte
Averilla b. 1693 D. unm. 1762
Elizabeth b. 1694, m. Feb. 1727-8 Sir John Hobart, created Earl of Buckinghamshire d. 1762
Anne b. 1695, m. Francis Howard, E. of Effingham Lady of Bedchamber d. at Hampton Court 1774
Francis b. 1697 m. John Warde of Squerries
Woolly b. 1698
William b. 1699, F.R.S. Sec. to Lord Lieut of Ireland d. 1758 unm.
John b. 1701 (of Quiddenham) Sub. Gov. of South Sea Co. d. 1768. He married Anne Judith, d. of Paul Foisin, of Chateau Chinion, E. I. Merchant of Paris.
Rebecca b. 1705 d. unm. 1775
Robert, Clerk of Board of Green Cloth: M. P. for Winchelsea 1738 and afterwards for Shoreham, b. 1712-1776
(1) (1746) Susannah d. of John Phillipson. b. 1765
(2) 1769 Mary, d. Rev. R. Harding, V. of Micheldever
Susannah Sir Brooke Boothby
Penelope born 1785 d. 1791
Anna Maria b. 1770, M. 1813 Ned Booth d. 1857
Elizabeth b. 1771 d. 1793 unm.
Robert, of Broxmore Wilts, b. 1773
Sophia, d. of Joseph Twine, Ramsbury, Wilts.
Sara b. 1774, d. 1794 unm.
Ada Sophia
Robert
Laura Caroline
Ada Sophia Reginald Carlyle Kemp.
Robert Louise Weston
Laura Caroline Frederick Robert Knollys, s. of Gen. Sir Wm. Knollys
Evelyn Violet Col. Crawford 18th Royal Irish
Reginald Bristow
Geraldine (1) Wilfred Veiner
Mabel Hebert Bull
Evelyn
Hugh Alexander Bristow 11th Hussars
Cecil Reginald (2) Edward Harvey
Mary
Robert Edward Bristow
Charles Edward Bristow
Katherine Elizabeth Rev. Ed. John Nelson.

CHAPTER VIII

THE BRISTOW FAMILY

SIR Richard Knight, John Matthew and Andrew Merriott who bought the manor of Micheldever from James Stansby, mortgaged the property in Dec. 1674 to George Arnold for £1500. In Oct. 1678, by mutual consent, it was sold to Robert Bristow, Jun. for the sum of £5,200, of which Robert Bristow, Sen. contributed £3,700. The Manor is thus described in the deed which is in the possession of the Earl of Northbrook:—

"The Manor of Micheldever, alias Motefont, alias Mottessont, Manor Mansion or Capitol house or Messuage with the Pigeon or Dove House, Barns, etc., etc., all those Closes or enclousures called the Dial Close, the Pigeon House Close or Meadow, the Oade Close, the Upper Ten Acres, the Lower Ten Acres, the Little Close, Reave Land, Broad Mead, the coppices or wood grounds and all those pieces or parcels of land in the common fields containing 290 acres, common of pasture for 700 sheep, 13 other Rother beasts or Great Beasts, for 39 Teggs or Small Beasts and those thirteen other tenements, whereof two were without houses, then or late in the possession, tenure or occupation of Sir Richard Knight, John Matthew,

Andrew Merriort, Richard Stansby the elder, Richard Stansby the younger or Nicholas Winkworth their under-tenants or assigns."

Thus opens the last act in the history of Micheldever House.

Sir Edward Bysshe, a well known Herald in the 17th century, appears to have taken some trouble to ascertain the early history of the Bristow family from which he claimed to be maternally descended. In the notes of his "Upton de Studio Militaire" published in 1654 he states that Simon Fitz Hammon established himself at Burstow near Reigate about the time of Richard I and that this place then became his Lordship. FitzHammon adopted the name of De Burstow on acquiring the estate, as was usual. The name seems to have been corrupted to Bristow from the first. The estate and adjacent lands were held by the family for upwards of two centuries.

In 1220 John de Bristow formed one of the forest Jury. In 1254 the same John was granted the custody of Winchelsea and Rye. Sir John de Bristow granted lands in Burstow to his son at the beginning of the reign of Edward I. In 1312 Roger his son was sworn as keeper of the Keys at Ludgate during the riots; in 1362 John, son of Roger, accompanied the Black Prince to France and formed part of his suite during the Wars. He was Knighted on the field. He saved the life of Lord de Burghersh (who was thrown from his horse in battle) and, in gratitude, was presented with the estates of Swalefield near to Burstow. On his return he repaved at his own charges the Brixton Causeway or road beginning at the end of the third mile from the City. For many centuries, and until quite lately, that roadway was called the Bristow Causeway. Is Brixton a variant of Bristow?

In 1374 Sir Richard de Bristow was returned one of the Knights of Surrey. In 1399 John de Bristow was Cupbearer to Henry IV, was in the retinue of Henri V on the first expedition to France in 1415, and fought at the battle of Agincourt. Nicholas Bristow was Clerke of the Jewels to Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth. In 1543 he bought the Manor of Cannons near Watford, and in the next year Letters Patent were granted him with respect to the Manor, estates and advowson of Ayot St. Lawrence. He died, aged ninety, in 1584, sole possessor of these properties. The present Coat of Arms was granted to him. The Patent is dated Oct. 3, 1544, at Boulogne. At the time of the surrender of the town, Nicholas was close to the King who was so excited that he flung his hat into the air. It was caught by Nicholas and the King made him a present of it. Of plum coloured silk, with a small green ostrich feather attached, it descended with the Title Deeds of Ayot as an heir-loom. Plum colour was adopted as the livery of the Bristow family. The hat is now in the possession of Mr. Lyde of Hyde.

Robert Bristow, of Ayot St. Lawrence, fifth in descent from Nicholas, was joint purchaser, with his son, of Micheldever House.

He is described in the legal document as "citizen of London, Grocer". This means that he was a Freeman of the Grocer's Company. (He was not necessarily a Grocer. Some Freemen of the Merchant Taylors' Company are not Tailors but Clergymen.) He was born at Binsted near Alton in 1643 to a salute of Parliamentary muskets firing on a party of Royalists in Alton Church. He thus early imbibed a love of powder and a fighting spirit. Perhaps it was excess of Parliamentary zeal which led to his quitting the country about 1660 at the time

of the King's restoration. At any rate, about that date he went to North America, where he bought estates in Virginia, joined the Militia and in due course became Colonel. It is related that when an insurrection broke out in 1676 he supported the Governor and offered to fight in single combat any officer of the opposing forces. He was one of twenty-four merchants who supplied the planters of Virginia with goods. About 1661 he married Averilla, daughter of Major Curtis, also a proprietor in Virginia. In or before 1678 he returned to England and bought estates in Essex and elsewhere. His son Robert, born in Virginia in 1662, was the first of the Micheldever Bristows and we shall call him Robert Bristow(1). Probably father and son came home from Virginia together.

In 1684, Robert Bristow (1) married Catherine, daughter of Robert Woolley of London and East Sheen. He became a Director of the Bank of England and was Member of Parliament for Winchelsea for two years. He had nine children. A daughter, Elizabeth, in 1727 married Sir John Hobart who, in 1746 was created Earl of Buckinghamshire. She was his second wife. By him she had two sons (1) George, who became the third Earl of Buckinghamshire and (2) Henry, who married his cousin, Anne Elizabeth Bristow. From these the present seventh Earl is directly descended. The portrait of the first Lady Buckinghamshire, painted by Dahl, hangs at Squerryes Court, Kent, the home of the Wardes who were connected with the Bristows by marriage. Tradition has it that she was a beauty, as was her younger sister, Anne, who in 1728 married Francis, seventh Baron Howard of Effingham. They had no children. Lady Effingham became Lady of the Bedchamber and died at Hampton Court

in 1774. Her portrait by Kneller, also hangs in the Hall at Squerryes Court.

Two letters written by Lady Effingham in 1769 when she was seventy-four years of age, are here reproduced. They show that she was a "game" old lady with a healthy appetite which nearly proved her undoing. They afford an example of the (to our eyes) faulty spelling of those days, the stilted formal greetings which were customary even between brothers and sisters, and a little glimpse of doings at Micheldever House.

"Hampton Court. Oct. 19, 1769.

Dear Madam, I take the first opertunety of obeing your commands by acquainting you that we arrived safe here by five o'clock, but in the way I was allmost choaked at Bagshot. The mutton chops being so good as to gredely swallow a spinter bone, which stuck in my throat, my misfortunes were renewed—missing my agreable Party in the evening at Quaddrille, as I shall my drivings with you in the morning. In short I received so many leveties at Micheldever as made me regret not countermanding the coach for another weak, Was concerned at taking my leave to find yourself and Mr. Bristow indisposed but hope the pain in his foot will disperse as usual without a reall fit of the Gout. That health and hapeness may attend to both, is the sincearest wish of her who is, Dear Madam,

Your obliged and affectionate friend
to command,
A. Effingham.

My love attends dear Miss Bristow, hope she found no inconvenience by her early rising, with the same to Mr. John Bristow, and Compliments to the rest of your Company."

Lady Effingham writes again from the same address on Nov. 2 in the same year. "I hope you will excuse the first address of my letter to Mr. Bristow, who is become part of yourself, and rejoice at his being so soon able to get on Horsback, it being at all times good for his health, with my best thanks for his obliged letter and present of honey, as I am for my friend's kind inquiryes after me at Micheldever being, I thank God perfectly recovered of the disagreable accident I met with on my journey hither. Not being able to eat anything for some days made me apprehend the bone continued in my throat and made me at last send for satisfaction to a surgeon who assured me it was not there, but we poor mortals are liable to accidents every moment of our lives without the power to prevent them. My love attends Mr. Bristow and Miss, with my two nephews, being glad at the increase of your party at quaddrille, as I am at every agreable insedent. From, Dear Madam, your affectionate and oblidged Humble Servt. A. Effingham".

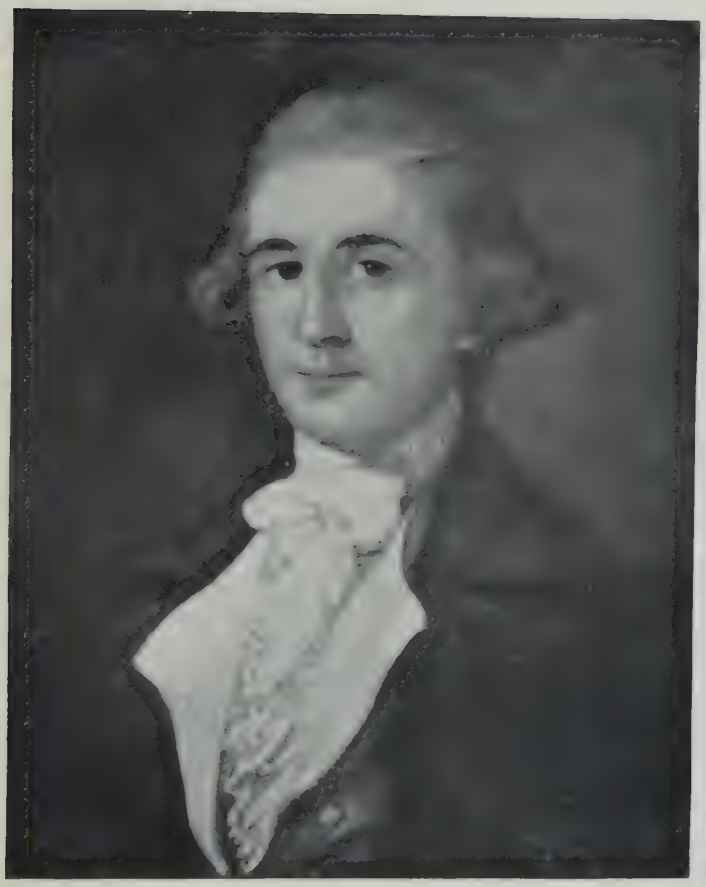
The Mrs. Bristow to whom these letters were written was, no doubt the newly-wedded (second) wife of the last of the Micheldever Bristows—Mary Harding, daughter of the Vicar of Micheldever. His first wife, Susannah, was buried on April 7, 1765.

William Bristow, a younger son of Robert (1), became Secretary to his brother-in-law, the first Earl of Buckinghamshire, when the latter was Lord Lieut. of Ireland in 1746. Three years later Bristow was made a Chief Commissioner of Revenue in Ireland and he was also a Fellow of the Royal Society. Walpole mentions him in his letters and there are several references to him in Mrs. Delany's correspondence. She met him in Ireland and speaks of him as "a great virtuoso who understands all the virtues

to perfection". He died unmarried in 1758. His "goods and chattles" were sold in London in the following year. Amongst them was a picture painted by the Dutch artist Franz Hals. It is supposed to represent the painter himself, his second wife, his boy and girl and an attendant blackamoor boy. The picture was bought by William's nephew, John Warde of Squerryes Court. It remained in the Warde family until 1909 when it was sold for a sum approaching £55,000. In the following year it was bought by Mr. Otto Kahn, an American banker, for £100,000, the highest price ever paid (so far as is known) for a single picture. (The "*Times*", March 31, 1910.)

It is interesting and pathetic to recall the fact that the artist himself was nearly always short of money, ultimately became bankrupt and at the age of 83 was forced to ask the authorities at Harlem for a pauper's pittance!

Another son of Robert (1) was John, who lived at Quiddenham Hall, Norfolk. His portrait is reproduced on the opposite page by the kind permission of his great-grandson, the Rev. W. E. Bristow. He was a Sub-Governor of the South Sea Company and Member for different places in seven different Parliaments. He is mentioned in Walpole's letters as a Director of the Bank and M.P. for St. Ives. In a letter of Mrs. Delany's he is stated to have lost £100,000 through the great Lisbon earthquake in 1755. It was his daughter, Anne, who married her cousin, Henry, younger son of the first Earl of Buckinghamshire. Another daughter, Catherine, married Lieut. Gen. the Hon. Simon Fraser, son of the "wicked" Lord Lovat. The latter was executed on Tower Hill for treason in the rebellion of '45. The General himself was involved in the rising but was pardoned and did good service in Portugal and in the American wars. Owing to his father's conduct he



JOHN BRISTOW OF QUIDDENHAM

never became Lord Lovat. His wife died in 1835 at the age of 96, having had no children.

Her sister Caroline, married Lord Lyttelton in 1774 and died in 1809.

Robert Bristow (1) died in London in 1706. His wife outlived him by 44 years but his father followed him to the grave in a few weeks.

Robert Bristow (2) (1687-1737) was Clerk Controller of the Household and Member for Winchelsea (1708-1734). He married (1709) Sarah—and his sister, Frances, married John, children of Sir John Warde of Squerryes Court. Kent. Robert had four children : Robert, William, John and George.

George was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1743 and became a Barrister. He was appointed Assistant Clerk to the Merchant Taylors' Company in 1762 and clerk in the following year in succession to his father-in-law, George North. He resigned in 1802 and was presented by the Company with a piece of plate of the value of 100 guineas as a mark of "the esteem this Court entertains of his merits". John Opie was commissioned to paint his portrait which still hangs in the Dining Room of the Company.

Tradition has it that the third son John Bristow was a scapegrace and that he was killed in a duel. There is no evidence to support the latter statement. If the date of his death is accurately given as 1793 he must have been about 70 years of age at that time and his duelling days may reasonably be regarded as ended. But his extravagances had clearly strained the patience of his family. Apparently his uncle, John of Quiddenham, insisted on his leaving the country. He was in Lisbon in 1737-8 but his expenditure was evidently controlled from home, all

payments on his behalf being made through Lisbon agents, Messrs Martin Barrell and Co. In a list of sundry expenses paid by this firm on his behalf there appear :—

		M.	R.
Nov. 1737	By Doctor Richard Smith for attending on the smallpox	57	600
	By a nurse to attend me therein 30 days	14	400
	By a lodging in the country to take the air.	24	380
	By Edward Crathorne apothecary his bill	27	380
	By money to pay sundry small charges	14	400
1738	By sundry things to make mourning for my Father	27	865
Jan. 21	By pockett expenses	24	800
June 25	By Barbers, Taylors and Shoemakers bills for one year	84	940
June 30	By sundry things for second mourning for my Father	32	740
	By pockett expenses	24	000

West Lisbon, 30 June, 1738.

John B. Junior.

The "second mourning" for his father cost more than the first!

His illness afforded an excuse for coming home and a fragment of a letter (undated but seemingly written in the early part of 1739) addressed to his brother at Micheldever begs him "to intercede with my uncle to permit me to visit my Native Land in April next, for to remain three months, the Physicians having judged a voyage to England as extremely beneficial to my health and I want to see my dear Mama and your good self". His appeal was successful and his visit apparently lasted much longer than three

months. At any rate, he writes from Lisbon again in August, 1741, saying that he arrived there in July and thanking his brother for his hospitality. He had "a pleasant passage of six days, meeting nothing in our way but two large ships which we imagined to be Spanish Privateers, who were of service to us in forcing us the sooner to our port. You will pardon my not writing from Exeter or Falmouth but I made no stay at either, taking post horses at Honiton in Devonshire. Lay at Okehampton, from whence I reached Falmouth in one day, which you may call 85 long post miles, thro' a mountainous, bleak, stony country. It being a Sunday my horse was a little religiously inclined and came down on his knees and oversett his rider. I got no harm, only a scar on my face. Since my arrival here I have commenced Merchant, a dignity not quite suitable to my inclinations, but I think it a duty to submit to the remonstrations of my Familly". He asks his brother to send him two of Jones' small Jockey Switch Whips, "not doubting your remembrance of the saddle and briddle. Tell Nicks to make me four chairs, the same as the last, and be so kind to purchase me a Bristoll Stone Stock Buckle with five Knobbs". He adds, "You will be so good as to pay for them"! He has views of "being able some years hence to come home and settle in England, enter the married state, of all the most happy in this transitory life, and then be able to found a family of my own". He entreats his brother to marry soon "that you may have an oppertunity of seeing your children placed in the world, before that you are obliged to exchange the mortal life for eternal Bliss. For notwithstanding some of your notions in Religion are too free and too much inclined to Deism, yet your moral virtues, which in you are many, and give a great ornament to your character in life, may secure

you the goodwill of our Eternal Creator, one of whose attributes is Mercy".

Perhaps it was the delightful, unconscious humour of this last paragraph which led to the preservation of the letter in the family archives.

Six months later the "Black Sheep" was still in Lisbon, bearing as best he could the "dignity not quite suited to his inclinations". In view of the war with Spain, and the certainty of trouble with France over the question of the Austrian Succession after the fall of Walpole, he anticipates very profitable trading and intends to "push into every branch of business whatsoever and I doubt not we shall do extremely well". In the same letter (March, 1742) he congratulates his brother Robert on the fall of Walpole's Ministry "who have so long sacrificed the Honour and interest of our Country to the French, of whom we may presume, their head received large Bribes. I hope vigorous measures will now be taken to curb the insolence of our enemies, and to replace the Imperial Diadem on the Head of the Illustrious House of Austria, and to punish the audacious Bavarian for his temerity in accepting it without our Sovereign's consent". He begs Robert to return to public life and adds "the late Ministry used you very ill". He sends by the ship "Ulysses" four pairs of Maltese slippers, two for Robert and two for his uncle William. "I hope you received your pointer, he was of an excellent breed and if well taught, will turn out a fine dog".

He adds a postcript in French—"I imagine that our Uncle of Mark Lane found the dismissal of Walpole not much to his taste, for he was much given to the plans of the late Ministry—mais ceci est entre nous". Was this a dig at the uncle who had shipped him abroad? On Oct. 2, 1742 at Lisbon he signs a receipt for the money

due to him under his father's Will (£4,665) in the name of "John Bristow, commonly Stiled Junior, second surviving son of the Honble. Robert Bristow, Esq. one of the Clerks comptrollers of His Majesty's Board of Greencloth etc. of Micheldever".

History is silent as to whether or no John "Junior" made a fortune or founded a family or ever entered that "state the most happy in this transitory life".

There is an engraved portrait of a John Bristowe, "commonly called Jack", published in 1746,—a mezzotint by John Faber, Jun. after J. Shackleton.

Perhaps we catch a final glimpse of John at Micheldever House in 1769 when his aunt, Lady Effingham, sends her "love to Mr. John Bristow".

We must return to the days of Robert Bristow (2), at Micheldever, 1706-1737.

On December 12, 1717 at Micheldever "about twelve of the clock in the night time there happened a sudden and lamentable fire in the shop of Richard Collier, wheelwright, by an accident unknown, which, by reason of the fierceness of the wind and being at that time of night, for want of help soon enough in a short time burnt down the said shop and house adjoining to it, the loss being computed to be one hundred and fifty pounds", by which means Collier was "reduced and obliged to desire assistance". A petition was circulated and "the truth of it attested" by Samuel Swayne, Vicar, Thomas Perry and John Fifield, Churchwardens, Thos. Edes, Thos. Day, Wm. Eedes, John Baily and others. A sum of £74.17.6 was raised in response, mostly in guinea subscriptions from the friends of the Bristows and in smaller sums amounting in all to £3.14.0 collected by Mrs. Bristow.

In 1727 the mother of the Rev. John Imber, Vicar of

Micheldever (1721-35) writes to Robert Bristow thanking him for obtaining for her son, from the Duke of Bolton, the Living of Itchen Stoke. Mr. Imber held the Living in addition to that of Micheldever.

A letter from Vicar Imber to Robert Bristow next discovers a village tragedy.

"Winchester, Oct. 28, 1728.

Sir, This morning I came to Winchester where I have the favour of yours. An odd accident truly! and a very dark account of it I have from Dearlove, Mansbridge's son-in-law. He told me Mr. Henley, going through the pond, making a great noise, Blunden's wife came to ye door or to ye window and ask'd Him whether He had lost His dogs or Himself? Mr. Henley rode up and presently broke ye windows, cursing her and swearing he'd strike her brains out; on this, she *crying murder*, Mansbridge and his son-in-law (hearing, as their house is opposite) took each a stick and went out; Henley seeing them, rod tow'd 'em swearing, cursing and swearing to knock their brains out, holding up ye end of his whip, but, said Dearlove, "he did not strike. Indeed I was afraid he would and I held my stick over father's head to have fended the blow if he should ha' strook but he didn't. But young Henley got off his horse and made tow'd the old man but my wife crying out to him not to strike an old man he turned to me and stroke me three times in my breast but did not strike my vather. Presently Mr. Henley's man came up and desired me not to strike again but to leave them and go in a'doors. Upon that I took hold of my Vader and desired him to go in, and leading him to the door he sunk down out of my hand and before we could get him in he was dead. But he had no blow from anybody". This is Dearlove's account when he came to me the next morning

for advice, at which time I said but little, suspecting some circumstances concealed, suspecting because of one passage I had heard viz, that after the fray when Mr. Henley went off (which was near an hour) Mr. Box, a Clergyman, one of his companions, rode up to him and said to him "Would to God, Mr. Henley, you were well out of this Scrape for the Man is certainly dead". To which Mr. H. presently hastily replied "The devil he is".

I have no comment to make on all this for the man is buried and Dearlove has been with Mr. H. for something towards the charges but has nothing, tho' Mr. H. sent for him before Mansbridge was buried, to come to him. Dearlove didn't go till after.

The young gentlemen at Micheldever were well yesterday. We, Mr. Jacky and I, had designed to write tomorrow morning and send by tomorrow's post but the weather being bad I am persuaded to tarry here all night and I could not defer to answer yours, tho' on ill paper with bad pens and worse ink. I should likewise have wrote to Dr. Sykes to desire the favour of him to buy for me a pair of Globes of about 50/- or 60/- price, with Gordon's Geographical Grammar and Eachard's Gazetteer. I beg Sir you'll excuse my freedom in desiring you, if you see the Dr., to communicate this with him and if he'll be so good and kind to favour me with a line of the charge, I'll take care to return to him. I'll write to him how to send them when I have enquired where the Basingstoke carrier joins. My father, mother and wife send their respects to yourself and good Lady and Mrs. Palmer, I am most respectfully, Good Sir, Your Very Obedient Servant, John Imber".

Mr. Henley lived at the Grange, Northington, and seems not to have been responsible for his actions—at least that

is the most charitable interpretation we can put upon what appears to have been outrageous conduct. Robert Mansbridge was 74 years of age and the "pond" was Mare pond in Duck Street, now drained. Mansbridge lived near it, in a house which has since disappeared.

"Mr. Jacky" is evidently our old friend "John Junior", of Lisbon. In 1728 he was probably about ten years old and the Vicar seems to have been responsible for his education. As he rubbed his inky fingers over Gordon's Geographical Grammar and Eachard's Gazetteer "Lisbon" would convey nothing to him.

The name of Dr. Sykes recalls a controversy which occasioned much heart-burning in the early years of the eighteenth century. The battle raged about the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, one side holding the accepted view and the other side apparently considering that the Second and Third Persons are not upon an equality with the First Person. The foremost champion of this revival of Arianism (or loosely, Deism) was Dr. Samuel Clarke, a Clergyman of the Church and an able theological scholar. On either side, publications poured forth from the press in full flood ; tempers were strained and language strong. Amongst the writers on the heretical side was Dr. Sykes, a friend of Clarke and a Prebendary of Winchester.

It is clear that Sykes was a welcome visitor at Micheldever House and the fact that a member of the Bristow family has an old portrait of Dr. Clarke points perhaps to their intimacy with *him* too. No doubt the family shared the views of their clever friends. We found Robert Bristow (3) being reproved by his harum-scarum brother, Jack, "for being too much inclined to Deism". Vicar Imber, no doubt, was also infected as was Joshua Reynolds, Rector of Stoke Charity and uncle of Sir Joshua. It may

be of interest to reproduce letters from Sykes and Reynolds to Robert Bristow, on this subject. The controversy engendered much heat and the strong language used was not confined to one side.

From Dr. Sykes, July 30, 1730.

Dear Sir,

You will give me leave to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Bristow's letter and I would have wrote to him my thanks for it, had I not been diverted by an extraordinary piece of news from Winchester School. A boy has been expelled from thence (the fact was done last week) for only speaking favourably of Dr. Clarke. As I have heard but one side of the question, I should be glad if Mr. Imber or Mr. Reynolds would enquire into the truth of ye story, and let me know the truth. This is a very tyrannical proceeding, and surely must hurt ye school among the Whigs, if a foundation scholar is expelled, or which is more wicked, is artfully and under the pretence of kindness persuaded to resign his privileges, only because he had a good opinion of Dr. Clarke. A boy that had often seen the Dr. and had often heard him spoke well of in his Parish, where the boy lived. A boy of about 15 or 16 years of age expelled for no other crime or pretence of crime, and examined as if he were before the Inquistors, and when he gave answers to any question which did not satisfy the Holy Brotherhood to be told he lied, and at last to be thus expelled, is something so extraordinary that I am desirous of all things to know the true case, and what the Warden of Winchester's story is. I am a little more so, because I am told he made very free with myself and with my letters upon this pious and godly occasion. I am the more surprised because the School is countenanced by

Whigs, and was warmly recommended by a very good friend of mine within this month to me. I do not mention many circumstances which I have heard upon this affair, because I have heard but one tale which is alwaies good until the other is told. If what I am told is true, tis one of the strangest pieces of wickedness one shall meet with.

We begin to think of ye pleasures of Micheldever; but till we can absolutely fix upon a house we must not fix upon a time to come, tho' perhaps it may be sooner than is thought. My wife joins with me in service to Yr. Lady, Master Bristow, Mrs. Palmer and all Friends. I am your most obliged humble servant A. A. Sykes. I had mislaid Mr. Imber's letter, but now I have found it, I beg of you to pay him for me £1.4.6 with my thanks for his trouble."

We too should like to hear the other side of this story.

Mr. Reynold's letter is dated 4½ years later. Robert Bristow had sent him a pamphlet written apparently by Dr. Rundle or at least in defence of his opinions. Dr. Rundle, who was at some time Bishop of Derry and afterwards of Gloucester, lay under suspicion of being an Arian.

"Sir, I return you many thanks for ye sight and reading of ye enclosed. But as strongly as it is wrote, I am satisfied it will not convince one of Dr. Rundle's orthodox ill-wishers. For ye bare suspicion of Heresy among such true sons of the Church will most certainly weigh down everything else. Do you think that if his Majesty himself had never so great a desire to have made the late Great Dr. Samuel Clarke a Bishop that he dared do it? So that my opinion is, if this pamphlet had been wrote by St. Paul, it would not have made one convert. Doubtless the 28th page will be wholy denyed as to ye matter of fact; because otherwise (if that page should be allowed to be true, how zealously soever their orthodoxy may rejoice at Dr. Rundle's

disappointment) I can't see how it is possible to vindicate themselves and their leader from being (under the mask of religion) a crew of cursed hypocritical villians.

I am, Sir, very much obliged to you for your kind enquiry after my health ; I am but in a very poor way, so much I know. But what danger I may be in, I am not a sufficient judge, tho' my Dr. and Apothecary sometimes seem to hint that my case is worse than I am willing to think. I pray God to keep you and yours ever in good helth and welfare, in which sincere wish my sister heartily joins with, Sir, Your most Obedient, humble Servant,

Joshua Reynolds.

Dec. 14, 1734.

Stoke Charity.

Reynolds died eight days afterwards, aged 60.

CHAPTER IX

THE BRISTOW FAMILY

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT Bristow (2) died in 1737 and was buried on Nov. 11. There is nothing to show where the funeral took place (there is no entry of it in the Parish Register) but it was evidently in the country, for in the undertaker's account there is a charge for an hearse and six horses for four days. The account in full as here given shows how much our burial customs have altered in the direction of simplicity.

	£. s.d.
A superfine pintel shroud sheet pillow and gloves.	2. 0.0
An elm coffin lyn'd with fine crape ruffle and insear'd and a lead coffin with inscription on lead.....	5.10.0
An outside elm case covered with black velvet, finished with the best nails, drove close, and four pair of handles gilt.....	14. 0.0
An inscription with coat of arms engraven on a brass plate, fixt on top oth'velvet case.....	2. 0.0
The use of a velvet pall the journey.....	1.10.0
Twelve silk escutcheons, the pall.....	3. 0.0

	£ s.d.
The hearse and six horses, four days	7. 0.0
A mourning coach and six horses, ditto time	7. 0.0
Seventeen plumes of black ostriche feathers to hearse and horses	2.15.0
Black velvet covering to ye hearse, and housen for horses	1.10.0
24 buckram escutcheons, twelve shields, six shaffroons	5.10.0
Four horsemen in mourning four days 10/0 each per day	8. 0.0
Eight crape hatbands and eight pairs of gloves to ym. and postillions	1. 4.0
Six cloaks for horsemen and coachmen, four days.	1. 4.0
Eight bearers to bring the body downstairs and put into ye hearse in the morning	16.0
Eight fine cloth cloaks for persons in the coach and in the country	1.12.0
Four best crape hatbands	14.0
Five pair of mens shammy gloves	17. 6.0
Four black mantua silk scarves to Clergymen	4. 0.0
Four silk hat bands for them	1. 4.0
One pair of youths diamond loop shamy gloves	4.0
Two pair of mens ditto	10.0
33 crape hatbands to tenants at 2/6	4. 2.6
33 pair of mens ash coloured drawn topt gloves ditto	3. 6.0
Five yards of fine black cloth for the pulpitt at at 16/0 per yd	4. 0.0
50½yds. of black Bayz for the Church at 18d. per yd	3.15.9
Three dozen of buckram escutcheons used in the Church	4.10.0
Two atchievements, one for ye house in town and the other in the country	7. 0.0

	£ s. d.
A rich 3/4 mantua silk scarfe 3 1/3 yds long, Dr. Sykes	1.10.0
Two pair of womens white kidd gloves	4.0
Paid to turnpikes going and returning	13.0
Paid two person sitting up all night with the body and for firewood and watching the hearse and helping in and out with the corpse	9.0
Pd. two men that went and moved the body down the night before	5.0
Gave to the coachmen and horsemen, by order	1. 8.0
Pd. two men for taking the achievement down in Coleman Street and afterwards putting of it up in New Burlington Street	5.0
Eight pair of gloves to the bearers	8.0
	103.16.9

Mrs. Bristow, Robert's widow, died in 1741 and was buried on the fourth of May with similar pomp, the Clergymen on this occasion being Dr. Sykes and a Mr. Drew.

The new owner of Micheldever House was another Robert (3) who was born in 1712 and therefore was twenty-five at his father's death.

It was he to whom his younger brother "John Junior" wrote from Lisbon ; who, according to John, was tainted with Deism ; who entertained his aunt, Lady Effingham, at "quaddrille" in 1769.

He was Clerk of the Board of Green Cloth and Member for Winchelsea and later on for Shoreham. (The Board of Green Cloth was a committee sitting originally at a table covered with green cloth, to control the royal household generally and to examine all the accounts).

Within 10 days after the death of his father, Robert was making arrangements for the final bestowal of his own

body. Vicar Imber writes to him with reference to a vault in the Church which "Stephen Cole had cleared as far as he could with safety—14ft. from east to west and 12½ft. from north to south. There is to be a chimney run in and with ye wall in the S.E. corner. No key came from Hunts ; I sent again, twas not to be found, neither father nor mother there, so would not venture to break their lock or door. I went thence to Eastratton to farmer Fifield, can avail nothing yet, he will think of it and call on me in a little time at Worthy."

Perhaps the key was wanted to open the Hunt vault for purposes connected with that under construction. If so, it would point to a Hunt vault about the middle of the nave.

The difficulty with Fifield may have arisen over the question of pews. (It is extraordinary what bitterness is aroused in the matter of pews!) For immediately after the reference to Fifield the letter continues : "While Mr. Morey was Vicar a Commission was had of the Bishop's Court to settle the seats in Church. I remember to have heard that this seat (the little seat in question) was *for the Lord of the Manor when he please to come* ; and that it was so written over that seat in ye plan or scheme which was taken or made by virtue of that commission. Whether Mr. Bristow ever had or saw that, I dont remember, or where it is unless with Mrs. Cooper".

Mr. Imber's memory was not at fault with regard to "the little seat". I have before me a plan of seats in Micheldever Church as allotted to the parishioners by a Commission which sat in 1673. (Can any other place boast such a plan equally old?) It is witnessed by Edward Morey, Vicar, Richard Stanesby, Jer. Peboth, Christopher Archar, and John Cooper and Villiers Day, the two latter

being Churchwardens. One seat is stated to be "for ye Lord of ye Manor when he please". There are seats allocated to the Parsonage, the Vicarage, the Great Farm, Sir Richard Knight's Farm, The Warren, Sheephouse Farm, West Stratton, and Watergate Farm. I have not come across any other mention of Watergate farm. The plan unfortunately cannot be reproduced here but I hope shortly to hang a copy of it in the Vestry.

"Mr. George is well and sends duty to his Mama and love to his brother. My wife heartily joins with me in respects to Mrs. Bristow, hoping to hear she is in good health. We hope your cold is entirely gone off. Service to Mr. Drew. I shall be much obliged if you'll cause to be bought for me half a dozen bottles of Harbin's Japan Ink and to be brought when come to Micheldever."

His brother's advice that he should enter "the married state, of all the most happy in this transitory life" took effect five years later, for in 1746 Robert married Susannah, daughter of John Phillipson. Of this marriage there was a daughter, also called Susannah, who in 1784 married Sir Brooke Boothby, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

To Sir Brooke, in 1785, was born a daughter who died in 1791, after a brief existence of six years. There is a very beautiful monument to her memory in Ashbourne Church, the inscription running:—"To Penelope, only child of Sir Brooke and Dame Susannah Boothby, born April 11, 1785, died March 13, 1791. She was in form and intellect most exquisite. The unfortunate parents ventured their all on this frail bark, and the wreck was total". It is related that when Queen Charlotte (George III's wife) saw the monument and read this pathetic inscription she burst into tears.

Years, however are not the measure of immortality and,

while men love good pictures, Penelope Boothby will not be forgotten. The portrait of Penelope, a demure little creature, with a mob cap and long mittens, was painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds and is one of his favourite works. Perhaps he took a special interest in the subject because he knew Micheldever, the home of the child's mother. His uncle (and Godfather), another Joshua Reynolds, was Rector of Stoke Charity which, as all the world knows, is only about one and a half miles from Micheldever. It is just possible that, as a small boy, Joshua might have stayed with him there. If so, how could he resist the attraction of our delightful, half-timbered thatched cottages and the old Tudor house, then the home of the Bristows ?

Sir Brooke Boothby, who was something of a poet, wrote and published a series of Sonnets with the title "Sorrows sacred to the memory of Penelope".

Lady Boothby died in 1822 and was buried at Dover. She left a sum of money the interest of which should be used for the benefit of the poor of Micheldever. This fund is known as Dame Susannah Boothby's Charity and provides prizes for the children attending the Village and Station Schools.

The original picture of Penelope is not well known, and there can be only a very limited number of living persons who have seen it. It passed out of the Boothby family at some time or other and is now in a private collection in London. If this humble chronicle should arouse any interest in Penelope and Micheldever, it may chance that some one may be moved to give to each of the Schools a reproduction of the picture, as a joint remembrance of Sir Joshua and the pensive maiden in the mob cap.

Robert Bristow (3) lost his wife in 1765 but about 1769

he married Mary Harding (born 1742) daughter of the Vicar of Micheldever. Of this marriage there were four children-Robert (1773-1853); Frances Elizabeth (born December 1771, died, unmarried, 1793); Sarah (born August 1774, died, unmarried, 1794); Anna Maria (1770-1857).

Anna Maria became the wife of Frederick Booth, Solicitor to the Tax Office. She was buried in the family vault in Micheldever Church where there is a marble monument to her memory on the east wall of the south aisle.

The family papers which have survived from the days of Robert Bristow (3) consist in the main of farming and tradesmen's accounts.

In these days of high prices it may console some one to hear that in 1775 the best oil, for lighting purposes, cost 3/8 a gallon and in April 1776 the price had risen to 4/-.

About the same date the accounts show an average monthly expenditure of 3/6 for six pounds of hair powder. There is also a charge of 2/6 for "a Whig Bag".

The following "letter from Dean Swift (died 1745) to a Friend" was found among the Bristow papers. It has not, we believe, previously appeared in print.

Sir,

As you have been pleased very generously to honour me with your friendship, so I think myself obliged to throw off all disguise and discover to you my real circumstances which I shall do with all the openness and freedom imaginable. You'll be surprised at the beginning of my story and be inclined to think the whole a banter, but you may depend upon its being actually true; and if need were, I can bring the Parson of the Parish to testify the same. You

must know then that at this very time I live in a poor house of clay, that stands upon the waste as other cottages do, and what is worst of all, am liable to be turned out at a minute's warning. It is a sort of copyhold tenure and the custom of the Manor is this ; for the first thirty years of my life I'm to pay no rent but to do suit and service and attend upon the Courts which are kept once a week, and sometimes oftener ; for twenty years after this I'm to pay a Rose every year and further than this, during the remainder of my life I'm to pay a tooth (which you will say is a whimsical kind of acknowledgement) every two or three years or oftener, if it be demanded ; and when I have nothing to pay, *out* be the word, and it will not be long before my person be seiz'd. I might have had my tenement, such as it is, upon better terms if it had not been for a fault of my great grandfather. He and his wife together, with the advice of an ill neighbour, were concerned in robbing an orchard belonging to the Lord of the Manor and so forfeited his grand privilege—to my sorrow, I'm sure. But, however, I must do as well as I can and shall endeavour to keep my house in tolerable good repair. My kitchen, where I dress my victuals, is a comical little roundish sort of a room, somewhat of the figure of an oven. It answers very well the business it was designed for, and that's enough. My garrets (or rather cocklofts indeed) are very indifferently furnished but they are rooms which few people regard now, unless it be to lay lumber in. However I make a shift to rub on in my little way, and when the rent day comes I must see and discharge as well as I can. Whenever I am turned out, I understand my lodge or whatsoever you please to call it, descends upon a low spirited, creeping family, remarkable for nothing but being instrumental in advancing the reputation of the great Mover in Abchurch

Lane. But be that as it will, I have one snugg apartment that lies on the left side of my house, which I reserve for my choisest friends. It is very warm, where you will always be a welcome guest, and may depend upon a lodging as long as the edifice is in the tenure and occupation of,

Dear Sir,

Your most Humble Servt.

Swift.

With regard to this letter, I have "tried it on the dog" with very indifferent success. May I say, therefore, that if any reader, unaccustomed to the phraseology connected with "suites and services", is not clear as to its meaning, he should read it again, remembering that the "poor house of clay", in which the Dean says he lives, is nothing else than the Dean's own body.

R. Bristow, Esq. May 12, 1774

Bought of RICHARD TAYLER,
Hosier, Hat-Maker, and Glover.
At the Three Pigeons, Charing Cross, London.

6 pr. S. fine Cotton Hose, Miss Bristow.....	£ 1. 4.0
2 pr. S. fine Childs white thread.....	4
4 pr. grey worsted for Black Boy.....	8
6 pr. fine India Cotton Hose.....	2.14.0
A light riding hat.....	16.0
Do. Velvet.....	2.0
A pr. Black silk hose.....	15.0
A hat bound and trimmed with blue ribbon....	7.0
A fine light hat.....	1. 1.0

On the back of an account dated 1755 there appears the following inventory, written no doubt by a Bristow.

Spoons 27; Forks 29; Knives 12; Candlesticks 28; Snuffers 8; 2 cases of Knives; Forks and Spoons 60. Casters 7.

A year before she died (i.e. in 1764) Mrs. Bristow had her earings re-set, the account being as follows:

To 254 Brillts, wt. 28½ : 1/3 Cts., the two bottom Drops wt. 16 grains.

To setting the above Earrings all transparent £14/0/0
To setting a large Rose in a Ring £1.

To setting a Pin, with 7 Roses, 10/-.

Another paper gives the valuation of Farmer Ventham's stock in 1747. Ventham was tenant of Bristow's farm at Micheldever.

56 acres of wheat,	produce	143 Qrs. 6 Bs. at	£1/ 6/0	per Qr.	£171.17.6
66 and 114 acres of Barley,	do.	161 Qrs. 4 Bs. at	11/0	do.	89.16.6
65 acres of Oats,	do.	191 Qrs. 3 Bs. at	9/0	do.	86. 2.4
11 acres of pease,	do.	27 Qrs. 4 Bs. at	16/0	do.	22. 0.0
5 acres of fetches,	do.	12 Qrs. 4 Bs. at	16/0	do.	10. 0.0
4,022 acres of Beans,	do.	16 Qrs. 4 Bs. at	16/0 (or 18/)		10. 0.0
10 tun of Hay at					12. 0.0

	£. s. d.
280 sheep at 8.0.....	112
192 lambs at 4.6.....	43. 4.0
9 horses and harness.....	55
7 cowes	17
4 bullocks	6
9 hogs.....	9
2 sows and pigs.....	3
7 shoats	3. 3.0
25 and a half Qrs. of Grass seed at 8/o.....	10
Implements of Husbandry.....	50

In 1776 Mrs. "Brister" was presented with an account for "asses" milk—29 half pints at 1/o per half pint, £1. 9.0.

Among the papers is the following which will appeal to persons across the Tweed and still more to persons on this side of it!

"Cain, in disgrace with heaven, retired to Nod :
A place undoubtedly as far from God
As Cain could wish ; which makes some think he went
As far as Scotland, ere he pitched his tent,
And there a city built of ancient fame
Which he, from Eden, Eden-burgh did name."

Also there is the following amusing letter to a Quaker watchmaker :—

"Friend John,

I have sent unto thee my pockett clock which greatly standeth in need of thy friendly care and corection ; the last time he was at thy school he was noways reformed by thee ; nor in the least beniffited thearby ; for I percieve by the index of his mind that he is a lyer and that his motions are wavering and irregular, that his pulls (pulse) is sometimes very quick which betokeneth not an even temper : at other times it moveith so sluggish, notwithstanding I frequently urge him, that when he should be upon duty (as thou knoweth his usual name denoteth) I find him Slumbering and sleeping ; or as the vanity of human wisdom would phrase it, I catch him naping ; hence I am induced to believe that he is not right in the inward man ; examine him theairfore and prove him, that thou mayest be well acquainted with his inward frame and disposition ; drive him from the errors of his ways and show him the path whearin he should goe ; I am verilly of opinion that his body is foul, and the whole mass corrupt ; purge him thearfore with thy cleaning stick from all pollutions that he may vibrate and circulate according to the truth ; I will place him under thy cair for a few days and I entreet thee, friend, to demean

thyself on this occasion with the right judgment occasioned by the light that is within thee and prove thyself a workman that need not be ashamed, and that when thou layest thy correcting hand upon him let it be without passion lest by thy severity thou drive him to distraction; do thou regulate his conduct for the time to come by the motion of the luminary that ruleth over the day, and let him learn of that unerring guide the treu calculation of his table and the equation; and when thou findest him corected from the error of his ways and conformabell to the above rule mentioned, then do thou send him with a just bill of charges, drawn out in the spirit of moderation, and it shall be faithfully remitted thee by thy friend Manasseth Smith. The second day of the week profanely call'd Munday."

Robert Bristow (3) died in December 1775 at Kensington and was buried at Micheldever. His son Robert was only three years old at the time. In accordance with his father's will, the executors sold the Micheldever estate and built a new house for the heir at Broxmore, near Romsey. The Dowager Duchess of Bedford, then owner of Stratton, bought the Manor of Micheldever in 1778 for £10,000 and sold it nine years later to Francis, Duke of Bedford. It would appear that he had the house pulled down as it is not mentioned in an inventory of the estate made in 1799.

So the curtain rings down upon Micheldever House—upon Wriothesleys, Stansbys and Bristows. Not a vestige of the house remains and only the descendants of the old brown owl hoot mournfully in its memory.

Arms of the Bristow Family—Gules, three falcons Azure.

Burstow : Quarterly, Or and Azure, in the first and fourth rows Gules.

Bristow : Ermine on a fesse cotised Sable three crescents Or.

Crest : Out of a crescent Or a demi-eagle displayed Azure.

Motto : "Vigilantibus non Dormientibus".

The following Indenture was found in a lumber room in 1919. It is dated 1672 and is of considerable interest. For it shows that the Manor of Micheldever alias Mottefont alias Mottesson had the privilege of holding a Court of its own. No hint of such a thing appears in any other document, so far as is known, and but for the fortunate finding of the Indenture the fact would probably never have come to light. This Manor would appear to have been outside the jurisdiction of the Courts of the Abbot of Hyde.

Where are the Court Rolls of the Manor of Micheldever ?

The Deed shows also a remnant, at least, of the Feudal system at work in the fact that the tenant is bound to provide a labourer to work for the lord on one day at least in the year. Also the tenant is bound to appear at the Court of the lord, from time to time, to be "sworn, justified and ordered in the said Court as fare forth as the customary tenants ought to be". The open field system is also in evidence, the tenant's six acres lying two in the Middle Field, two in the West Field and two in the East Field. He further has the right of feeding one cow on the common fields and cow down.

The deed as here given is a faithful copy of the original, save in the matter of unimportant omissions.

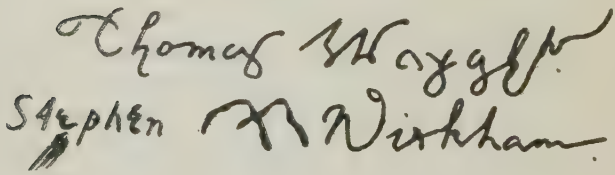
"This Indenture made the nine and twentieth day of

April, in the fourteenth year (1672) of the Reigne of our most gracious Souvraigne Lord Charles the Second by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, between Richard Stanesby of Micheldever in the County of Southampton, Esq. and James Ede of Micheldever, husbandman, witnesseth that the said Richard Stainsby doth demise grant and to farme lett unto James Ede one dwelling house and garden together with six acres of arrable land lying in Northbrook and Southbrook, viz. two acres in Northbrook in the Middle Field called Hearne and two acres in Southbrook West Field lying at Shabditch and two acres in Micheldever East Field neare black crought and also comon pasturing and feeding for one cow in the cow down and comon fields of Micheldever and Southbrook at such times as other the inhabitants of Micheldever do comon and feed there, all which said premises now or late were in the tenure or occupation of Robert Dymings, to hold from the date hereof unto the full end and terme of fourscore and nineteen years if James Ede the younger, William Ede and Margarett Ede, the sons and daughter of the said James Ede, parties to these presents, or either of them, shall soe long live and not otherwise, yielding and paying unto Richard Stanesby (etc.) the yearly rent of three shillings and four pence at Lady Day and Michelmas, and finding and providing one sufficient and able labouring man upon reasonable warning given to work one day in the harvest every year for and at the appointment of the said Richard Stanesby who shall find and allow to and for the said labourer convenient meate and drink for every day that he shall soe work with him and the said James Ede (etc.) doth covenant that he or they from time to time shall appear at the Court of the said Richard Stanesby to be holden within his Mannor of

Micheldever as the customary tenants of the Mannor doe and ought to do and upon the like warning as the customary tenants have, and to be justified and ordered in the said Court as farre forth as the customary tenants ought to be, soe as the same shall not extinguish prejudice or determine the estate hereby granted and the said James Ede shall within one half year after warning given well and sufficiently repair, uphold, make, maintain, sustain, fence, hedge and ditch as well all and singular the houses, etc. as the hedges and ditches, etc., and shall at the expiration of the terme so leave and yield up; and Richard Stanesby covenants to give quiet possession, etc.

Signed

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

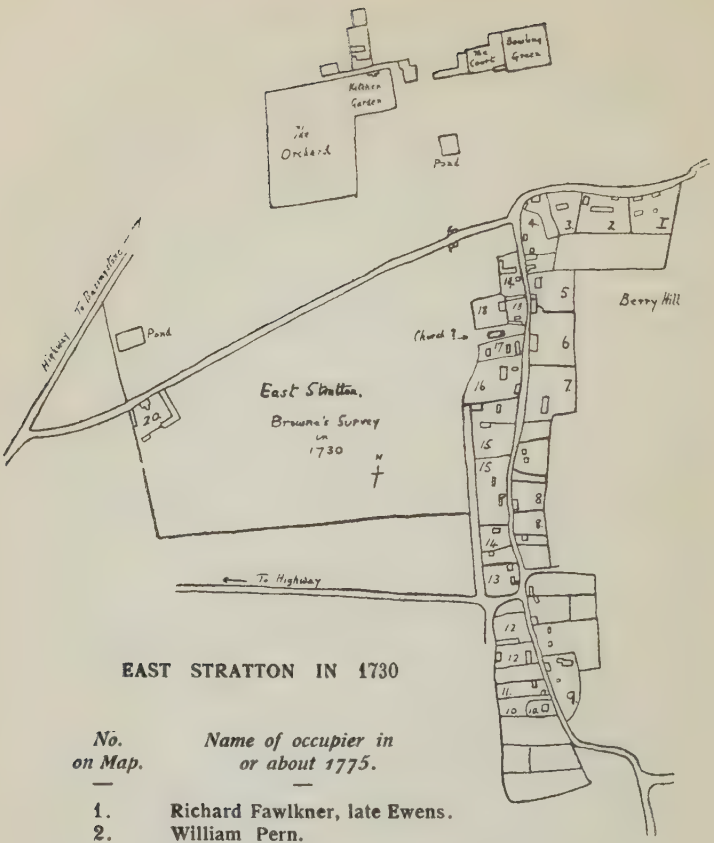


CHAPTER X

LADY RACHEL RUSSELL.

On the death of the fourth and last Earl of Southampton, his daughter, Lady Rachel, inherited the Stratton estate. At the age of 11 she had helped to entertain Charles I when he took refuge at Titchfield in 1647. When 17 she was married to Lord Vaughan. He died in 1667 and two years later she became the wife of Lord William Russell, third son of the fifth Earl, and first Duke, of Bedford. Stratton was their favourite residence.

The earliest notice of the house which we have come across is in 1664, when Charles II granted licence to the Earl of Southampton to enclose a highway near his mansion house, leading from East Stratton to West Stratton cowdown and thence to Overton. But, as will appear later on, a son of Sir Archibald Acheson, "Secretary and Counsellor of State to King Charles for Scotland", was buried at Micheldever in 1637. It may not unreasonably be surmised that Sir Archibald at the time, was staying at Stratton with Lord Southampton. We may therefore take it that the house was existing in the year last mentioned. Julia Cartwright, in her *Pilgrim's Way* (p. 11), states that Wriothesley "used the stones of Hyde Abbey in the building of his



EAST STRATTON IN 1730

No. on Map.	*Name of occupier in or about 1775.*
1.	Richard Fawlkner, late Ewens.
2.	William Pern.
3.	James Could.
4.	John Switzer.
5.	Saml. Miles.
6.	Ed. Miles.
7.	Thos. Brooker.
8.	Mr. Nich. Wake.
9.	Thos. Brooker.
10.	Rich. Waterman.
11.	Widow Exell.
12.	Robert Moody.
13.	John Windibank.
14.	Nath. Bradley.
15.	Aug. Kinchin.
16.	Geo. Wise.
17.	Rich. Tolfree.
18.	Will. Stanbrook.
19.	Giles Batchelor.
20.	Richard Elkins.

own great house at Stratton". She does not give her authority for this statement, which seems open to question. Wriothesley did not become possessed of the Manor of East Stratton until 1546, by which time he had built himself Place House at Titchfield, and had sold the house he had recently erected at Micheldever. It hardly seems likely that he would build another at Stratton. There is no mention whatever of Stratton in the letters written to him by his agents at Micheldever.

A survey of the estate made in 1730 states that the last Earl of Southampton made "the house of Stratton Parke one of his chief seats in this country". Also that Lord William Russell "added two wings to the old house and designed to rebuild the old and middle part. He likewise built laundries, brewhouses, coachhouses, stables for 60 horses, barns and other necessary offices, and made orchards, gardens and avenues and planted groves, wildernesses and other ornaments to adorn and accommodate this beautiful and pleasant seat; he also pulled down part of the town or hamblett of Stratton and laid it into his Deer Park".

For good and patriotic men life was difficult in the days of Charles II. They were horrified at the wickedness of the Court and in dread of the intentions of France. Many also had a horror of the revival of "Popery", as the King's brother James, heir to the throne, was an avowed Roman Catholic. Several attempts were made to pass an act which would prevent him from being King. In these efforts Lord William was prominent. Other and more desperate projects were on foot. There seems to have been a plot to seize and murder both King Charles and his brother as they returned from Newmarket in 1683. This is known as the Rye House Plot because the conspirators

met in a lonely farm house of that name. That Lord William knew anything of such a foul business or would have consented to it, had he known, is extremely unlikely. But he was accused of complicity and, declining to escape when he had the opportunity, was arrested and sent to the Tower. His trial began on July 13, 1683 and he was greatly prejudiced in the minds of the Judges by the fact that his friend and fellow prisoner, Lord Essex, was found dead in the Tower early that same morning, having apparently committed suicide. Lady Rachel with great courage acted as her husband's secretary during the trial. He was found guilty and condemned to death. Every effort was made to save him. His father is said to have offered the King £50,000 for a pardon. But Charles was not to be moved and on July 21 Lord William was beheaded in Lincoln's Inn Fields. Probably no one now thinks he was guilty. For he was a man of high moral character, good sense and sterling honesty and his personal honour was unstained.

Naturally Lady Rachel was overwhelmed with grief for the husband to whom she was devoted but her courage and resignation during a long widowhood have made her name famous.

Many letters written by or to her have been published and some have a local interest. Lady Rachel had the right of presenting a Clergyman to the Rectory of Kingsworthy and also to the Vicarage of Micheldever and the following letter from her to Sir Robert Worsley shows that she took some pains in the matter. (In Longman's (1853) edition of the Letters the date is given as 1696 but as Mr. Swayne was made Vicar of Micheldever in 1688 there would seem to be an error.) "By the death of Mr. Morin (a mistake for Mr. Morey) you know there wants a presentation ot

Kingsworthy and a Vicar of Micheldever. I find both places well disposed to receive Mr. Swayne. I hope he is worthy of the gift and I believe you think him so. If you should know anything why he is not, though as a friend you might wish he were the Incumbent, yet I am persuaded that in a just regard to the weight of the matter and to me who ask it from you, if you know any visible reason that he is not a proper person for such a preferment, that you will caution me in it; for I profess to you, Sir, I think the care of so many souls is a weighty charge, and I have been willing to take time to consider whose hands I put these into. I can with all my scruples make no exception to Mr. Swayne, if his vapours are not too prevalent to permit his being free and active in such a charge. If you can concur with me I will bestow them upon him; for I do not see how I can part them" (that is, the two Livings of Kingsworthy and Micheldever).

Mr. Swayne's vapours, some form of nervous weakness, were not prevalent enough to prevent him holding the Living of Micheldever for over 30 years.

The letter continues—"I have met with a paper signed by Mr. Morin to my father in which be engages to allow the Curate of Kingsworthy £50 a year and that at Stratton, who served Popham also, £30 a year. Northington is not mentioned in it. Now, Sir, I would in short have the same stipends honestly made good by the next Incumbent and during my pleasure. There will be £10 a year more coming to him than has been formerly, and as much to the Curate who serves Stratton; for a few years ago my dear Lord (her late husband) added £20 a year, during his will to do so, to be divided; and without a very justifiable reason I shall not withhold it, and 40/0 more to the Vicar, upon an agreement for some orchards taken into the Park.

I know it is a thing required by many to take a bond for resigning at the Patron's pleasure. I have no disposition at all to do so ; but to this I have, that I would have a bond to perform these conditions to the Curates unless I dispense with him, and also that in case of Non-residence he (the Vicar) shall resign to me. For the case often happens they get another Living, and the situation it may be more pleasant, then put in a Curate for a small stipend and I have no remedy. If what I ask is practicable I should take it as a favour if you would discourse Mr. Swayne upon it and then instruct Mr. Mewes to draw up an instrument to the purposes I have signified".

It was customary in those days, and indeed until comparatively recently, for a Priest to hold several Livings, perhaps many miles apart, to draw the stipends and pay small sums to Curates to do the work.

An addition to a letter written by Lady Rachel in 1697 runs : "Spencer (the Steward) has been to Stratton where he entertained the farmers who had given me a day's ploughing ; a fiddle was had and your nursery maid danced very briskly".

The stocking of Stratton Park with deer was evidently the work of Lady Rachel for writing in 1699 she says "I mention no more about the deer because my lord (the Duke of Bedford) saying nothing to it, I conclude he has none he can conveniently spare, and my neighbours are very kind in offering to spare me some of theirs and I intend to begin with a few". The herd had increased to two hundred by 1729, at which date it was valued at £250.

On Nov. 27, 1703 there arose a terrific storm which lasted three days and did enormous damage. The losses it caused in London alone, then a comparatively small place, were estimated at two million pounds. In the floods of the

LADY RACHEL'S CHALICE

Thames and the Severn, in ships blown from their anchorage and never heard of again, and in wrecks on the coast of Holland it is calculated that eight thousand persons perished. Twelve ships-of-war, with more than eighteen hundred men on board, were sunk in sight of shore. Seventeen thousand trees were torn up by the roots in Kent alone. The Bishop of Bath and Wells, and his wife, were killed at his house. Lady Rachel writes : "I thank God we are all well ; but the chimney over the room where my son and his wife were, fell and the bricks and soot coming down the chimney made them rise at 6 o'clock and come to my drawing room ; the wall of the garden next the field, fell and all the trees bent one side to the very ground. But at Stratton my loss is worse in all respects ; my farms torn to pieces, corn and hay dispersed, seen hanging on the trees ; and among trees near the house the firgrove entirely broken and torn up by the roots. I send Spencer tomorrow to see if it is in nature possible to get up but a row round the ground. Hampshire is all desolation". It is clear that Lady Rachel was not at Stratton at the time. One likes to think that it was as a thankoffering for the preservation of her son and his wife that she presented to Micheldever Church the fine silver cup described on page 235. It is not improbable, as the cup is dated 1703.

Lady Rachel's second daughter, Catherine, married Lord Ross, afterwards Duke of Rutland. Their popularity, and the festivities which accompanied their arrival at his father's house are thus noted in a contemporary letter. "At their first entry into Leicestershire they were received by the High Sheriff at the head of all the gentlemen of the county, who all paid their respects and complimented the lady bride at Harborough. She was attended next day to this place by the same gentlemen and by thousands of

other people who came from all places of the county to see her and to wish them both joy, even with huzzas and acclamations. As they drew near to Belvoir our train increased with some coaches and with fresh troops of aldermen and corporations, besides a great many clergymen, who presented the bride and bridegroom with verses upon their happy marriage. I cannot better represent their arrival at Belvoir than by the Woburn song that Lord Bedford loved so well ; for at the gate were four and twenty fiddlers all in a row ; four and twenty trumpeters, with their tan tara ra ra's ; four and twenty ladies and as many parsons ; and in great order they went in procession to the great apartment, where the usual ceremony of saluting and wishing of joy passed, but still not without something represented in the song, as very much tittle—tattle, and fiddle faddle. After this the time passed away till supper, in visiting all the apartments of the house, and in seeing the preparations for the sack-posset, which was the most extraordinary thing I did ever see and much greater than it was represented to be. After supper which was exceeding magnificent, the whole company went in procession to the great hall, the bride and bride-groom first and all the rest in order, two and two. There it was the scene opened and the great cistern appeared and the healths began, first in spoons, some time after in silver cups ; and though the healths were many it was observed after one hour's hot service the posset did not sink above one inch, which made my Lady Rutland call in all the family, and then upon their knees the bride and bride-groom's health, with prosperity and happiness, was drunk in tankards brim-full of sack-posset. This lasted till past twelve o'clock". Verily there were giants in those days!

In Stratton Park, two or three hundred yards from the

present House is a cottage known as "Lady Rachel's cottage".(1) In it was a small oak-pannelled room with a finely carved oak mantel-piece. Local tradition says that Lady Rachel lived there after Lord William's execution. There is nothing to prove or disprove it, though one wonders why she should choose to live in such a small house when she could well afford to live in the big one.

A valuation of the estate was made in 1729 with a view to possible purchase by Lord John Russell. In this we read that the furniture of two rooms in the house, with certain kitchen appliances and brewery vessels, bought from Lady Rachel's executors by the Duke of Bedford, was estimated at £160/12/0. "The house" would seem to refer to the big house.

In Lady Rachel's room :—

	£ s.d.
a sacking bottom bedstead with crape furniture, the curtains lined with the same	2.10.0
a feather bed, bolster and down pillow	2.16.0
a canvas mattress	15.0
a dimity ditto	1. 5.0
a Holland quilt	1. 2.0
two flannel sheets	5.6
a blankett	7.6
a white satin quilt	1. 1.0
seven pieces of black and white crape hangings of the room, lined with canvas	2. 5.0
an easy chair and cushion in a wallnutt tree frame.	14.6
a pair of white dimity curtains and rod	1. 5.0
three cane chairs, two stools ditto	7.6
a pair of iron dogs, shovel, tongs, bellows and brush	7.6

(1) It was destroyed by fire in the autumn of 1922.

	£ s.d.
a long table	8.6
a long table and two forms	12.0
a form	1.0
In the Steward's bedchamber :—	
a bedstead with crimson damask Genoa furniture.	3.15.0
a feather bed, bolster and pillow	4.10.0
a canvas mattress	15.0
a Holland quilt	10.0
four blanketts	16.0
a silk quilt	6.6
a pair of red stuff window curtains, vallence and rods	5.0
a wainscott stand	1.6
six cane chairs	12.0
an oval wainscott flapp table	7.6
a pair of Doggs, shovell, tongs, bellows and brush.	6.0

Lady Rachel died in 1723, aged 86, and was buried at Chenies, Bucks. She was one of the best women of her own or any other day. Her wonderful patience and ready submission, though in no stoical spirit, to what she considered to be the will of God were never quenched but rather intensified by the many sorrows which fell to her lot. But she was no weakling. She had a will of her own and a rich fund of common sense. She was no Puritan either but took her share in the amusements of the day, even (as some will be shocked to hear) playing cards for money in accordance with the general custom. She held opinions of her own but was ever ready to allow the same liberty to others. Her warm-hearted sympathy and kindness made her a general favourite and there could have been few dry eyes at Stratton when it was known that the "sweet saint" was dead.

A window in Stratton Church, the gift of the Hon. Mary Bonham Carter, commemorates Lord William and Lady Rachel Russell. Each kneels at a faldstool, with hands clasped in prayer. Lady Rachel has a rough-haired little terrier standing beside her.

CHAPTER XI.

THE EARL OF GALWAY (1).

HENRY Massue de Ruvigny (1648-1720), a cousin of Lady Rachel Russell, was the eldest son of the Marquis de Ruvigny. Religious persecution in France drove the family to England in 1688. The Marquis died in 1689 and in the following year the younger son, Pierre de la Caillemont, was killed at the battle of the Boyne. Henry Ruvigny then entered the service of William III with the rank of Major-General of Horse, and by so doing lost his fine estates in France.

At the battle of Aughrim in Ireland in 1691 he commanded the horse of the second line and by his spirited attack at a critical moment contributed largely to the victory of his side. In the following year he was appointed Commander-in-Chief in Ireland and created Viscount Galway. Shortly afterwards the King granted him the forfeited estates of Sir Patrick Trant in Queen's County. This action was violently assailed in Parliament and the estates were wrested from him in 1700. In 1693 Lord Galway left Ireland to join the army in Flanders and arrived in time to command

(1) See *Dict. of Nat. Biography* and *Hampshire Field Club Proceedings*, Vol. VI, supplement.

the English and Huguenot Horse at the battle of Landen. He displayed great bravery in covering King William's retreat at a certain bridge and is said to have been made prisoner by the French who immediately released him, lest he should suffer as a traitor. Later he was created Earl of Galway and appointed Lord Justice of Ireland but he was handicapped by being unable to speak English fluently, and therefore retired in 1701.

On the loss of his Irish estates, William III gave him a pension of £1,000 a year besides a military pension of £500. He bought Rookley, an old house still in existence, near Crawley in Hants, and lived there until 1704 when, in spite of gout and growing infirmities and his own desire to live in retirement, he was appointed to command the English forces in Portugal. In the following year he besieged Badajos and while superintending the erection of a battery had his right hand shattered by a shot from the fortress. He captured Madrid in 1706 and though himself so ill that he had to be lifted on to his horse, he drove the enemy from their positions, capturing 8,000 Spanish troops and 100 pieces of artillery besides an immense amount of ammunition and provisions.

The following year with inferior forces he attacked the French army at Almanza. Lord Galway was defeated (owing to the cowardice of the Portugese Cavalry) and also lost his right eye through a sabre cut. The battle is noteworthy in that Lord Galway, a Frenchman, commanded a mixed force of English and Portugese troops against a French army led by an Englishman, the Duke of Berwick, a son of James II. Lord Galway was on active service again in 1709 when he commanded the English forces at the battle on the Caya, displaying great personal bravery. His horse was shot under him and he narrowly escaped capture.

The last four years of his life he passed in retirement at Rookley.

He died on Sept. 3, 1720, while on a visit to Lady Rachel at Stratton. He left £10 to the poor of East Stratton and the rest of his estate to Lady Rachel, and desired to be buried in the Church of the Parish where he should happen to die. The Church registers record his burial at Micheldever on September 6, 1720. Lady Rachel out-lived him by three years and it seems highly probable that she would place in the Church a monument of some sort to the memory of a great man and a dearly-loved cousin. But there is no record and no trace of such a thing and "no man knoweth the place of his sepulchre unto this day". If the present wooden platform on which the pews rest were taken up a memorial stone might perhaps be found beneath.

The recent battles in France, where British and French fought side by side, might be commemorated by the erection in an English Church of a monument to a great Frenchman who shed his blood for freedom and England.

Several letters from Lady Rachel to Lord Galway have been preserved. She evidently held him in great regard and affection. Writing to him in 1712 she says :—"The best news I have heard is you have two good companions with you, which I trust will contribute to divert you this sharp season, when after so sore a fit as I apprehend you have felt, the air even of your improving pleasant garden cannot be enjoyed without hazard".

Lord Galway evidently wrote to her with his left hand and playfully praised his own writing. Lady Rachel replies in the same light strain. "The letter I have read under your own hand affects me so much I cannot forbear to say your right hand was not more easy to read—but your

Lordship is so much puffed up with the honours you receive from our sex, you must brag!"

In 1718 she writes :—"When I scribble to Lord Galway I consider very little what I put down, as I am secure, by God's grace, never to forfeit your love and esteem", and again in the same year. "Tomorrow your health will not be omitted, daughter Devon (the Duchess of Devonshire) and Mr. Charlton being to dine here ; as I hope to do with yourself at Rookley and also at Old Stratton, where you will be kindly welcome as I am entirely assured I shall be at your Rookley. God, for the good you do to mankind, grant you some easy years, to do good upon earth, before you change for a happy eternity. So does desire and pray Lord Galway's truly affectionate cousin".

On another occasion she wrote to him with reference to a certain Withers who appears to have wished to buy some land at the Warren, Micheldever. "Now, my Lord, I come to my neighbour Withers, as you call him. I know the persons of none of that name ; if it be him at Alsford (Alresford) he has been a Commander and may talk of taking and defending towns more knowingly than bargaining for lands ; but I fancy it is another rather further from me (probably at Kingsclere) and the family more known to me an hundred years ago. As to the Warren, I do not value foxes as the gentleman does, but I do the beauty of our Warren ; and for the value, you found he went but half way ; but to cut that short, it is entailed and I must leave it so. The Warrener must be bribed, not me. I am thankful to God I have made an end between Sp.... and myself." Sp... probably stands for Spencer, her Steward, whose money affairs appear to have been badly mismanaged.

Of Lord Galway, Macky wrote—"He is one of the finest gentlemen in the Army, with a head fitted for the Cabinet

as well as the camp ; he is very modest, vigilant and sincere ; a man of honour and honesty, without pride or affectation ; wears his own hair ; is plain in his dress and manners". Another description of him runs : "An aged General, maimed and covered with honourable wounds, by birth a foreigner, by sentiment and inclination an honest Englishman, a gentleman of rare and eminent qualities that equally render him proper for the Cabinet or the field". Lord Galway died unmarried. There is a picture of him in the Court Room of the French Protestant Hospital, South Hackney, of which he was a benefactor and Governor.

It may not be out of place to give further particulars of Rookley Manor. Lady Rachel left it to her grand-daughter, Lady Frances Manners. The latter died in 1768 and thereafter, until 1783, Rookley was used as a hunting lodge by the Duke of Cumberland, brother of George III. In 1798 it was rented for the use of the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV)—hence its popular title, the "King's House". In 1800 it became the property of George Lovell. During his ownership William Makepiece Thackeray was a frequent visitor. Rookley is in the parish of Crawley and thus we owe to it that wonderful person "Sir Pitt Crawley, of Queen's Crawley in the county of Hants" so delightfully drawn in Thackeray's immortal novel "Vanity Fair".

CHAPTER XII

BENJAMIN WHITAKER.

OUTSIDE the Church, on the north wall of the Chancel, there is an oval tablet of marble with the inscription "In memory of Benjamin Whitaker, Chief Justice of the province of South Carolina, died Nov. 1751, aged 53". Diligent enquiry, locally, failed to add anything to this somewhat meagre information. All the Inns of Court, and the Law Society professed complete ignorance of Benjamin Whitaker. An attempt to wring some information out of the Colonial Office met with a similar fate, though with a suggestion that something might be forthcoming from the Secretary of State, South Carolina. A letter to this official having survived the perils incident to an Atlantic voyage in 1917 produced a reply to the effect that Benjamin Whitaker was Chief Justice of the province from November 7, 1739 until 1749—when he was "removed being a paralytic". But Whitaker's will was found at Somerset House, and with it, the Church Registers and certain legal documents we can make a tolerable tale.

The Church register records the burial of a Benjamin Whitaker in November 1728, aged 61. He was born

therefore in 1667 and was evidently the father of the Judge. For the latter desired to be buried in Micheldever churchyard "as near as possible to my honoured father", and there is no other entry of the burial of a Benjamin Whitaker.

Mrs. Elizabeth Whitaker, buried in 1716, we may conclude was the Judge's mother. Now there lived a family in Micheldever called Cooper. Robert Stansby, in his will of 1674, describes John Cooper as his "loving friend and neighbour". The Coopers owned a little property at Northbrook, consisting of a house called "Northbrook", two cottages adjacent and about 150 acres of land. (The house and cottages stood a little north of the pair of cottages now situated between the hamlet of Northbrook and the Dairy farm). Into this family a Whitaker married, John Cooper, Junior, aged 28, taking to wife at Baughurst in 1690 Mary Whitaker, spinster, of Ecchinswell, aged 22. Mary was born therefore, in 1668 and was evidently a sister of Benjamin Whitaker Senior, and aunt of the Judge. Under the marriage settlement, "Northbrook" and its lands passed to John Cooper and Mary his wife. John died in 1702 and left all his real estate to his wife for life and then to her nephew, Benjamin Whitaker, the Judge. I should take it that the elder Whitaker and his wife lived with the Coopers, at any rate after the death of John Cooper, until their deaths in 1716 and 1728 respectively. Then Mrs. Mary Cooper, being an eligible widow of 62 with a nice little farm and feeling somewhat lonely, was snapped up and carried off to the Altar by William Dicker, of Overton, in 1730 (1). William Dicker deals with the property in 1737, leasing it to Matthew Dyer for thirteen

(1) Mary was married by licence on both occasions. On her first marriage she gives her age as 22, and on the second as 66. If she was 22 in 1690, she must have been only 62 in 1730.

years. From this indenture, now in the possession of Mr. Montagu Edwards, we get some description of the premises. For the following portions are expressly excluded from the letting, viz, the Hall, the Parlour, the Lower Chamber, the Buttery and the staircase, with the rooms or chambers over them ; the garden, and that part of the orchard which is next the garden ; a little piece of ground on the north side of the house ; the parlour garden, and the use of the little stable and hen house, and also liberty to go to and from the same.

All this is interesting as showing an Elizabethan type of house—a hall in the middle, rising probably to the full height of the house, with a parlour and buttery at one end of it and no doubt a kitchen, etc. at the other end. The lofty hall would necessitate two staircases, one at each end, an arrangement which made it possible for two separate families to live independently under the same roof. This house fits in very well with the description of a sixteenth century house given on pp. 36-37 of Quennell's "History of Everyday Things in England", Part Two.

Mrs. Dicker must have died before 1750, for in that year Benjamin Whitaker made over the property to his nephew, William George Freeman, who agreed to give his uncle £400 a year during the latter's life time. The Judge, however, died in the following year. In his will, proved in London, December 20, 1751, Whitaker states that he is "of the Middle Temple, Utter Barrister". We are told that it was customary to divide the whole company and fellowship of learners in an Inn of Court into Benchers (or Readers), Utter Barristers and Inner Barristers. "Utter Barristers are such that for their learning and continuance, are called by the readers to plead and argue in the said house doubtful cases and questions, and are called Utter

Barristers for that they, when they argue the said Motes, sit Uttermost on the forms which are called the Barr, and this degree is the chiefest in the house, next the Benchers. All the residue of learners are called Inner Barristers, which are the youngest men".

The will further states that Whitaker had been for several years Chief Justice of South Carolina. It shows too that he was a widower. For it states that he had already erected, to the memory of his beloved wife, a memorial in the Church of St. Philip, Charlestown, Carolina. He directs that a marble memorial stone shall be placed to his memory in Micheldever Church and a similar stone, with corresponding inscription, beneath his wife's monument at Charlestown. A good friend of his, one Captain John Carruthers, had given him, while in Carolina, a large two-handed silver cup. This cup Whitaker now returns to him. He leaves to his nephew, Freeman, another "silver cup wrought". This had been given to Whitaker's father by Lady Mary Manners, "a daughter of the old Earl of Rutland" (probably John-8th Earl, who died in 1679). Lady Mary had been God-mother to Whitaker's father. A silver dram cup, set in mother-of-pearl, which had belonged to Whitaker's grandmother is also left to Freeman.

The sum of £100 is left to Mr. James Dicker of Court farm, near Overton, in trust for the child or children of Susannah Pile.

In the document, by which Whitaker made his property over to Freeman, it is stated that the only annual charge on the premises is a yearly payment of seven pounds to the use of a negro slave called Jack, in accordance with a deed enrolled in Carolina. Seven years later Freeman sold the property to Robert Bristow for £1,170. It was *then* stated that besides the annuity to the negro, there

was payable also out of the property a sum of 15/0 a year to the poor of Micheldever. This latter charge was evidently imposed by Freeman, since it is not mentioned in the deed by which the property was conveyed to him by the Judge. There is at the present time a local charity of 15/0 a year known as Garret's Bargain. A Parliamentary Report, issued in 1824, gives the following account of it. "The returns made to Parliament in 1786 state an annual sum of 15/0 to have been then paid by the Steward of the Duke of Bedford ; reported to have been given by Benjamin Whitaker, Esq. ; now paid by Sir Thomas Baring as the owner of a small farm in Micheldever called Garrett's Bargain". There seems however no doubt that it was Freeman not Whitaker, who founded this Charity. Garret's Bargain was a small holding at Northbrook, which, in 1737, was in the occupation of Baptist Garret but in the possession of William Dicker, of Overton, who had married Mary Cooper (Benjamin Whitaker's aunt) in 1730. The small holding passed, of course, with the other property, through the Judge to Freeman, who charged it with the payment of 15/0 a year.

We seem fated to be plagued with persons bearing the same Christian names as their near relations. Benjamin Whitaker's father was called Benjamin and so was his grandfather ; Mary Whitaker married John Cooper and so became Mary Cooper and *his* father and mother were John and Mary Cooper!

A word about Freeman may not be out of place. In 1757 he was living at Putney with his wife Margaret, a sister of Charles Foulis, of Woodford, Essex. (Foulis was in the East India trade and a Director of the Sun Fire Office). It would appear that Freeman married twice and that Margaret Foulis was his second wife. For in

her will she leaves "£1,000 to Polly Hill Bridges, wife of Col. Thomas Bridges, and daughter of my late husband" and £1,000 each "to my two sons Charles and Thomas Freeman". Freeman died in 1782, having previously moved from Putney to Bloomsbury; his widow died in 1794 in Chapel street, Bedford Row.

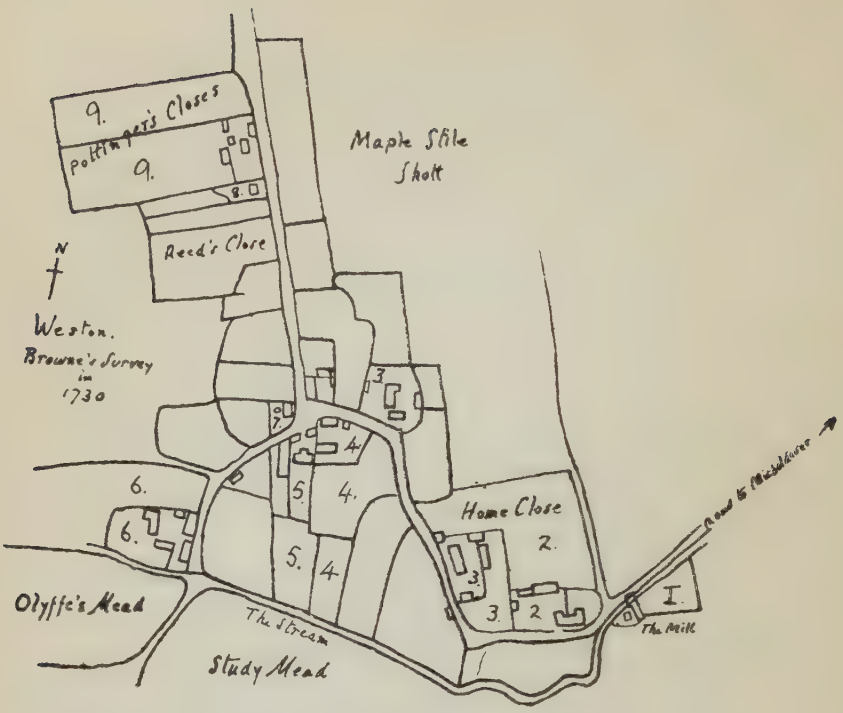
CHAPTER XIII

THE "OPEN FIELD" SYSTEM.

No record of an ancient agricultural parish such as Micheldever would be complete without some account of the open field system of farming and of the customs under which the country people lived.

The land of a village community was under control of the lord of the Manor. It was divided into (1) the lord's demesne and (2) land in villenage.

The lord's demesne was the home farm of the lord of the Manor. He kept it in his own hands or let some of it to tenants at a money rent just as he chose. The land in villenage he let to tenants, not originally at a money rent but on condition that they performed certain services for him. These are what the Court Rolls (see next chapter) call "suites and services". (Compare also Dean Swift's letter, p. 112.) The holders of land in villenage were divided into two distinct classes. First, the villein proper who might hold anything from a hide of land (about 120 acres) down to a virgate (30 acres) or half virgate. A family was very seldom disturbed in its holding, the simple homestead and its customary acres passing down through successive generations, century after century, provided that



WESTON IN 1730

No. on Map.	*Name of owner or occupier in or about 1775.*
1.	Sir Thomas Heathcote, Bart. Freehold.
2.	Widow Fifield. Freehold.
3.	William Bailey. Tenant at will.
4.	Mr. John Archer. Freehold.
5.	Mary Day's representatives. Copyhold.
6.	Col. Christopher Gauntlet. Freehold.
7.	Edmund Knight's representatives.
8.	Elizabeth Randal.
9.	Richard Tilliard, Esq. Freehold.

the "suites and services" were regularly and properly performed. So frequently was this the case that holdings were known for centuries by the name of the family in possession e.g. at Micheldever, "Butlers".

Below the "villeins" proper were the smaller tenants, the cottagers. These generally possessed no oxen and so could take no part in the common ploughing but they sometimes held small allotments in the open fields, say five acres, more or less. Below the cottagers again there was a class of servi or slaves. But as early as 1066 these persons were being gradually absorbed into the cottager class or becoming household servants or labourers on the lord's demesne. The "suites and services" which were to be rendered in return for the holding, are too numerous to be detailed here, but may be arranged under three heads.

(1) Week work i.e. work for the lord for so many days a week, generally three.

(2) Boon work i.e. special work at request, sometimes counting as part of the week's work, sometimes as extra to it.

(3) Payments in money or kind.

There were other restrictions upon freedom, such as the necessity of obtaining the lord's licence for the marriage of a daughter or for the sale of ox or horse, the obligation to use the lord's mill and not to leave the land. Gradually however a money payment came to be accepted in lieu of some or all of these obligations, and thereafter any attempt to return to the old customs was resented by the tenants. The land in villenage and, often, the lord's demesne too, lay in what was called the open or common fields. These were not fields in our sense of the word. They were tracts of land cut up into multitudes of small

strips of an acre or half-acre in extent and of a more or less uniform shape.

It was customary to drive the plough 220 yards before turning, and this distance came to be called a furrow-long or furlong. The acre was a furlong in length and therefore its breadth had of necessity to be 22 yards, since 220 must be multiplied by 22 in order to make 4840, which in square yards equals an acre.

These acre or half-acre strips were separated from one another, not by hedges but by long strips of unploughed grass land, two or three furrows wide. These green dividing ribbons were known as balks.

A number of strips, side by side, all running in the same direction, was called a shot, or a furlong. (See the map.) These shots or furlongs, again, were separated from one another by broader balks which were generally overgrown with bushes.

If there were no common way giving access to the strips, then there was a strip running along the whole length of the furlong and across the ends of the strips composing it. This strip was called the Headland. The tenants of the strips in any particular furlong had the right to turn their plough upon the Headland. Consequently the tenant of the Headland strip had to wait till all the other strips were ploughed before he could plough his own.

If a hillside formed part of the open field, the plough was driven along the side of it, not up and down, and the sod was always turned downhill. Consequently, the plough after driving one furrow had to return to the starting point idle. There were, of course, on these hillsides the usual balks between the strips. Therefore, though the sod was always turned downhill no sod could pass from one strip to the next strip below it. Therefore, again,

in time the sloping strips became level terraces one above the other and the balks between them became steep rough banks of long grass often covered with brambles and bushes. Both these balks and the plough-made terraces themselves are called lynches or linces. They may often be seen on the steep sides of the Sussex Downs and the Chiltern Hills.

Where the strips abruptly met other strips, or abutted upon a boundary at right angles, they were sometimes called butts. Corners of a field which, from their shape, could not be cut up into acres or half-acres were sometimes divided into tapering strips pointed at one end, and called gored acres or gores. (So that "Gore acre" does not necessarily denote a battlefield.) Little odds and ends of unused land were called "No-man's land" or "any-man's land" or "Jack's land".

Nearly all these features will be found in the open fields at Micheldever (See Map).

But the curious thing about the open fields is that neither "shots" nor "furlongs" represented a complete holding. A holding on the contrary was made up of a number of strips scattered about all over the "fields" in any and every direction, and quite separated from one another. A tenant seldom had more than two or three strips side by side, though the process of ploughing up the balks and so joining strip to strip came gradually into being and tended to become more frequent as the advantages became more apparent.

At Micheldever the land which it was customary to hold, let us say, with Borough farm lay in strips, here, there and everywhere, mixed up with strips which went with Manor farm and Sheephouse farm. It was a system which probably arose in very ancient times under the custom of

co-operative ploughing. The common plough team consisted of eight oxen, and those who joined in co-operative ploughing had each to bring a proper contribution either in oxen or plough irons. These were handed over to the charge of the common ploughman and the driver. The ploughing being completed, the results were apportioned on the following lines. The first acre ploughed went to the ploughman, the second to the man who provided the irons, the fifth to the driver and the others to the owners of the oxen. The twelfth was the "plough acre", that is for the maintenance of the woodwork of the plough. A man who contributed one ox to the ploughing was entitled to one acre in twelve, and it is easy to see how the scattering of one man's acres thus came about. When co-operative ploughing died out, the strips of a particular holding, instead of varying became fixed and were worked by the same tenant year after year.

The system, fair and reasonable enough in its origin, was in practice wasteful and extravagant. There was a prodigal expenditure of time in getting from strip to strip, and having one's own acre sown with weed-seeds from the strips of lazy neighbours must have been a constant source of irritation. There was constant trouble about headlands and rights of way, about someone making a new path or blocking an old one, about ploughing-up of balks and alleged landgrabbing—as will be shown in our own Court Rolls a few pages further on in this book.

The land was worked on what is called the three field system-one "field" or collection of strips and shots, being allowed to lie fallow every three years. The usual rotation was (1) wheat (2) barley or oats (3) fallow. The fallow field was known as the Summerfield. Every occupier of unenclosed land in the open fields had the right to pasture

his sheep and cows over the rest of the field after the corn was cut and carried and when the field lay fallow. He had also the right to feed his sheep on the common sheep down, and his cows on the common cow down to which they were daily driven by the common herdman—the "coward". The sheep were folded in the arable fields in common fold, till winter obliged every man to find his own fold and his own hay.

The open field system in Micheldever and Stratton was abolished between 1775 and 1799 as appears from a survey made in the latter year and by a comparison of the component parts of the various farms at the former and the latter date. That the new arrangement was considerately and fairly carried out with due regard to the interests of the old occupiers seems evident from the following note in 1799—"Mary Neale, sundry parcels of land lying formerly in six pieces containing 3a. 2r. 28p. but, since the enclosure, allotted to the said lessee in a certain close belonging to Sheep House farm called Inner Gastons, 3a. 2r. 28p. Rent. 1/8".

CHAPTER XIV

COURT ROLLS.

In Saxon and Norman times the areas into which a Shire or County was divided were known as "Hundreds" and these were subdivided into Tythings. Twice a year the Sheriff of the Shire held a Court in each Hundred. But there were many Hundreds and Manors in which he had no power, for the right to hold the Court had passed, by royal grant or by prescription, to Bishops, Barons or other prominent persons, and the fines which might be levied were paid not to the King but to these private individuals. Any person who possessed the right of 'sac and soc' was entitled to hold a Court and to the fines which might accrue.

In early days one single Court sufficed for all purposes but towards the end of the middle ages jurisdiction came to be differentiated according as it was concerned with (1) the King or (2) the lord of the Manor and his tenants. The King's business and the laws of the realm were enquired into by the Court Leet while the local affairs of the Hundred and Manor were managed by the Court Baron.

After the destruction of Hyde Abbey the right of "Sac and soc" which the Abbot possessed passed to succeeding

lords of the Manor. In the Hundred of Micheldever therefore, as in other places where this right existed, there was Home Rule of a kind. The Hundred managed its own local affairs through its representatives, made laws of its ancient customs, reported any breaking of them, dealt out punishment as was required, provided its own policemen and its own open-air prison—the stocks. The lord of the Manor was the head and fount of justice, acting through his steward who presided at the local Courts.

The Hundred of Micheldever contained the following Tythings : Northbrook, Southbrook, Weston, East Stratton, West Stratton, Popham, Northington, Abbotsworthy, Cranbourne and, strangely enough, Slackstead which is near Hursley and some five or six miles south-west of Winchester.

When the Courts were due, the steward ordered the bailiff to warn the tenants that they must appear at the accustomed place, on a given day, at a given time, to do their "accustomed suites and services". All the residents between the ages of sixteen and sixty were bound to appear. Two juries were chosen. The Court Leet jury, known as the Grand Jury, to the number of twelve or more, might include strangers in addition to residents. The Court Baron jury, called the Homage Jury, was chosen from the Copyholders. (The residents were divided into (1) Freeholders, that is, those who owned land or house in their own right ; (2) Leaseholders, those who rented property for a term of years under a lease ; (3) Copyholders, those who had nothing to prove that they were tenants except the *copy* of the Court Roll kept by the steward of the estate.) The steward kept a record (called the Minutes) of what happened at the Courts and the books which contained these minutes are known as Court Rolls. Some of these, made as long ago as the twelfth and thirteenth

centuries, are still in existence. The oldest of the Micheldever rolls, so far as is known, is dated 1692. Previous rolls are possibly lying covered with dust in the attic or cellar of some lawyer's office. From 1692 the local rolls continue, with considerable gaps now and again, until 1838. At the back of one of these rolls the steward, in 1730, wrote directions for the due and orderly performance of the Courts. These are reproduced below and give a forceful picture. In all probability they had been handed down from steward to steward for generations, and the rules which governed procedure during the days of Lady Rachel were probably much the same as those in force under the Abbots of Hyde.

The regulations largely explain themselves and show what matters came before the Courts. It will be easily evident how very valuable for the purposes of a local historian the Court Rolls are, when properly kept. The names of the Court Leet and Homage juries, of the constables, the coward, the hayward, the asseerers (the umpires), the bailiff and the steward are yearly recorded ; mention is made of the deaths of freeholders, leaseholders and copyholders, with some account of their holdings, of the heriot or fine which was payable to the lord, and of the name or names of their successors. Roads, streams, bridges, gates, ditches, ponds, hedges, boundaries, cottages are continually being mentioned. Names of those who were guilty of breaches of the law or local customs, or were responsible for various kinds of repairs appear very frequently. Ancient customs are referred to, insisted upon and rigidly preserved. All is carried out by the tenants of the Manor themselves, acting as judge and jury, assessing damages and inflicting fines.

DIRECTIONS FOR HOLDING THE COURTS.

To the Tything man of Mitcheldever Southbroke.

In pursueance of a Warrant to be directed under the hand of John Russell, gent, Steward of the hundred of Mitcheldever I do hereby give you notice that a Court Leet will be held at the usual place there on the—day of—inst. by nine of ye clock in ye forenoon of the same day agst. which time you are required to warn all the respective tenants within your Tything to be then and there personally present to do and perform their Suites and Services, and that, (according to your oath) you do bring with you a faithfull and true return or list of the names of all such persons as are Resciant (resident) within your said Tything, from 16 years of age to 60, and do allso give them noticc personally to be and appear at the said Court and further that you yourself be and appear at the said Court and make due return of this your precept dated this—day of—

Bayliffe of the Sd. hundred.

A HUNDRED COURT AND COURT BARON.

All manner of persons that do owe Suit and Service to this Court Leet and Law Day, now to be holden in and for this said hundred of Mitcheldever or to this Court Baron of the most Noble John Duke of Bedford now to be holden in and for this Mannor of East Stratton draw near and give your attendance and answer to your names.

IF IT BE A COURT LEET AND COURT BARON OF THE MANNOR ONLY.

All manner of persons that do owe Suit and Service to this Court Leet and Court Baron of the most Noble John Duke and Earl of Bedford now to be

holden in and for this Mannor of East Stratton draw near and give your attendance and answer to your names.

HUNDRED OF MICHELDEVER.

In Com Southton.

The stewards warrt. to the bayliffe for holding of Corts.

These are in the name of the most noble Wriothesley Duke and Earl of Bedford Lord of the sd. hundred of Mitcheldever to Will and Require you that a Court Leet and Court Baron will be held in and for the said hundred at the usual place there, on....the....day of..... by nine of the clock in the forenoon of the same day, and that you warn the respective tennts. of the said hundred to be and appear at the said Court then and there to do their Suites and Services, and that you allso warn the tything men of the respective tythings of Mitcheldever, Southbrooke, Northbrooke, Weston, Cranbourne, Slackstead, Abbotsworthy, Northington, East Stratton, West Stratton, and Popham, that they be and appear at the said Court Leet, and that they bring with them a list of the names of all the Resciants within their respective tythings, from 10 years to 60 years of age and that the said tything men give notice to all the said Resciants to be and appear at the said Court. You are allso to warn four and twenty of the most substantial men and a sufficient number of Tenants for the Homage within the several Tythings to be at the Court Leet, and Court Baron, to serve in the Jurys, and to be yourself there present with a list of the names of the men so warned to serve in the Jury fairly

written and to make a return thereof. Given under my hand this... day of...

CONSTABLE SWORN. Then call the Constable or Tything man and sware him.

You shall enquire and true presentment make of the several offences committed in your office since the last Court as have come to your knowledge.

So help you God.

If there be more than one Tything man as allways is in the Hundred Court Swear them all in like manner, and receive from them the Common Ffine or Kings Silver, then take from them their Rescian Rolls or lists of their Tythings, call them over, and mark them that answer thus... ap.

RESCIANS. Rescians of the Tything of East Stratton draw near and answer to your names.

After you have called over the Resciants of each Tything call upon the Bayliffe or Tything man for the return of the hundred Jury and after Proclamation made, say,

JURY RETURNED. You good men that are returned to enquire for our Sovereign Lord the King, answer to your names. Call them over, mark them that appear, call over the defaulters thrice, and not appearing fine them 6/8 each.

Then sware the Foreman.

COURT LEET JURY SWORN.

You, as foreman of this Jury, shall enquire and true presentment make of all such things as shall be given you in charge, the Kings Councell and your own, and your fellows you shall well and truly keep, you shall present nothing out of hatred or malice nor conceall anything out of love, fear, or affection.

But in all things you shall well and truly present as the same shall come to your knowledge.

So help you God.

Then Sware the rest of the Jury by four at a time.

The like oath that C.D. your foreman hath taken on his part, you and either of you shall well and truly observe and keep on your parts.

So help you God.

This hundred or Court Leet Jury must consist of twelve or more and may be chosen out of strangers or others being within the Jurisdiction of the Court and if the steward see cause and that the Jury do not present everything as they ought but are partial and remiss in their duty, he may impannell another Jury to find out the defaults and concealments of the Former and Fine them 20/- each.

TENANTS CALLED OVER.

Now call over (the Cryer repeating after you) the list of tenants, free holders (who are called free suiters of the Court),

lease holders and copy holders, and out of the copy holders choose your Homage.

COURT BARON. After proclamation say,

You that are the Lords tenants, and are returned to be of the Homage, answer to your names.

Then call them, and let the Bayliffe or Tything man count them.

Then call the Foreman of the Homage to the Book, and sware him.

HOMAGE SWORN. You, as Foreman of this Homage with the rest of your fellows shall enquire and true presentment make (as the oath of the Foreman of the Court Leet Jury).

Sware the other Homagers by four at a time allso, as the Jury in the Court Leet.

CHARGE IN THE COURT LEET. Then after proclamation made, say All you that are sworn drawn near and hear your charge.

My masters, what you that are sworn, as to this Court Leet, are now by your oathes obliged to enquire upon, I shall reduce to these two heads; and they are, either of such things as are here only enquirable and presentable, or else of such things as are not only presentable but punishable allso, in this Court. Of the first sort are the more capital offences. Such as are, Petty Treasons, Felonies by Common Law, Felonies by the Statute Law together with their accessaries the which offences although not punishable in this Court, yet are

here presentable. And the presentment must be certified into some superior Court, where the offenders are to be prosecuted and punished according to law. The offences that are both presentable and punishable in this Court are such as these... First you are to enquire how the Constable and Tything men have discharged their duties in arresting of Fellons, pursuing of Hewes and Cries according to law, and aprehending of Rouges, Vagabonds, and Sturdy Beggars.

And for the securing such idle and disorderly persons there ought to be a pair of stocks kept in good repair in each Tything, for it is the Tything mans prison, and a thing very useful as the world now goes. You are allso to enquire of the bloodsheds, if any persons within the precincts of this Leet, hath willfully or maliciously drawn blood from the person of another it is here punishable. If any rescous hath been made, upon any person, driving of the cattles to be impounded for a trespass committed, or any pound breach hath been made, cattle illegally taken thence, without due delivery.

Keepers and maintainers of public places for carding, dicing, kettle playing, and such like unlawfull games together with the frequenters thereunto are here punishable, so are all common Barettors

as scolds, brawlers and raisers of quarrels, eves Droppers, such as hearken after news, and carry it about with intent to sow dissention and discord among the neighbourhod.

Theres another sort of persons, very mischievious and indeed too numerous within this kingdom, and they are such as have no competent estates to maintain them, nor will they work to get themselves a livelihood but commonly spend the day either in sleep or idleness and in the night they betake themselves to robbing of henroosts and fishponds and suchlike villaines.

The law judges such persons very dangerous and so ought you, if any such come to your knowledge.

Whosoever shall take, kill or destroy any pheasants or partridges in the night time, or hares, by tracing them in the snow, or housedoves or pigeons, by guns, nets, or otherwise, its here punishable. You are likewise to enquire of those that do keep, and make use of hounds, grey hounds, and setting doggs, whereby to distroy the game, that have not estates which by the law do qualifye them for it. If any victuallers have conspired together to sell their victuals but at certain prices, or have put to sale any corrupt victuals, not wholesome for mans body.

If any labourers or artificers have combined together to work but at certain rates, or at certain times or not to finish the work they have begun, and undertaken to perform.

If any person hath used false weights, or false measures, or double weights, or double measures, that is, a great to buy by, and a small to sell by, in deciet of the people it is here allso punishable.

If any tanner hath put to sale any leather, before it be searched and sealed according to the statute, or any insufficient leather, not being thoroughly wrought, tanned and dyed. You are likewise to enquire of offences done and committed by Forestallers, ingrossers, and regrators.

Now a Forestaller is one that doth buy or cause to be bought any corn, or other victuals whatsoever, that is carrying to a fair or market, to be sold before it be brought into the fair or market.

An ingrosser is one that doth buy corn, growing upon the ground (otherwise than by demise or grant), or any butter or chees, or other victuals, with intent to sell the same again, for unreasonable profit.

A regrator is one that in open fair or market, doth buy and get into his own hands, corn or other dead victuals and the same doth sell again, in some other

fair or market, within four miles of the said place.

You are to make strict inquiry of such cottages as are erected contrary to law, a practise too much in use, and found to be very mischievious in most places.

Now the law is, that if any person shall set up a cottage, without buying four acres of land to it, or without the allowance of the Lord of the soil and the Justices of the Peace in open sessions, he doth forfiet £10, for his so doing, and 40/- a month for the continuance of it.

You are allso to look into your highways how they are repaired and mended, and whether the several persons therein concerned have done their due services towards the repairing of the same, and whether the hedges and ditches adjoining be kept low, and scoured as they ought to be.

If any footpath to Church, mill or market be denyed that hath been an antient and accostomed way or if any house, wall, hedge or ditch be set up or made in the Kings highway or any water stop'd. or turned thereinto, or any carrion, dung or other offensive thing be laid in, or near it, or any other nuisance whatsoever to the annoyance of the Kings subjects, it is here punishable.

You are to take notice what officers

ought of course to be now discharged of their respective offices, and to present the name of other fit persons to serve in their places, and you shall enquire of all other matters by me omitted, that are here, in this Court Leet, inquirable and presentable, as fully and effectually as if the same had been particularly named to you.

CHARGE IN THE COURT BARON.

You that are the Lords tenants, and are sworn of the Homage, your charge is to enquire of such thing as do relate to the Court Baron of this Mannor and they are either between Lord and tenant, or between tenant and tenant.

And first you shall inquire what advantages have happened to the Lord since the last Court, either by escheates or forfeitures, as if any freeholder of this Mannor hath committed felony and thereof hath been lawfully convicted in such case the King shall have year, day and waste and afterwards the lands will fall to the Lord by escheat.

If a bastard having purchased any land within this Mannor be dead, without issue of his body lawfully begotten, in such case allso the Lord shall have his land by escheat.

If any copyholders of this Mannor hath committed felony and thereof hath been lawfully convicted it is a forfeiture of his copyhold.

If any copyholder of this Mannor hath leased out his copyhold for more than a year and a day, without the Lords license it is a forfeiture of his copyhold, or if for a lesser term he hath let it out to an under tenant and hath not retained enough thereof in his own hands whereby the Lords dues may be fairly and justly answered, he is here to be amerced.

If any copyholder of this Mannor hath suffered the buildings upon his copyhold to be in decay and to fall down for want of reparation or hath committed waste in felling down timber trees without asignment, or in lopping them at unseasonable times in the year, whereby they dye, or in ploughing up any ancient meadow commonly called mead, they are forfeitures of a copyhold estate.

If any copyholder, within this Mannor having two copyholds hath impaired the one to improve the other its a forfeiture of the copyhold so impaired.

You shall inquire whether there be any rent, service or custom withheld from the Lord, what it is, from whom due, and what lands are chargeable for it.

You are allso to inquire whether there be any freeholder of this Mannor, dead, or that alienated his estate or any copyholder dead since the last Court, or before, and his death not yet presented. What

hath happened to the Lord upon his death and who is the next tenant.

If any bondstone, or landmarks between this Lord-ship and another, or between tenant and tenant have been removed, or if any encroachment hath been made upon the Lords waste, or any of the Lords lands be unjustly withheld from him, or any trespasses upon the Lords Royalties by fishing, fowling, hawking or hunting.

If any houses want repairing, hedges, gates, stiles, or bridges want mending or ditches want scouring, or if any hath impoverished his tenement by carrying the compost, or soil there made, or by penning his sheep upon other Lands, to the predjudice of his tenement, you are allso to inquire whether the several tenants of this Mannor be now here, to do their suit of Court and who have made default.

You are allso to take notice whether the orders of the last Court, or any other preceeding Court have been duly observed, or not, and wherein and whom by default hath been made.

And if there be any thing else that concerns the Lords interest or anything unjustly done, or omitted between tenant and tenant you have it in charge to present it.

After the charge is delivered and pro-

clamation made say, (the cryer repeating after you :)—

PLAINTS ENTERED.

If any man can inform this Court or inquest, of any treasons, felonies, bloodsheds or any other thing, not given in Charge, or inquirable at this Leet, let him come into this Court that he shall be heard. If any comes in, sware him, the evidence that you shall give to this inquest shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

So help you God.

THEN ADD

If any man will be asigned let him come forth, and he shall be received or if any one will enter any plaints let him come into the Court, and he shall be heard. After proclamation made, ajourn the Court (the cryer saying after you).

COURTS AJOURNED.

All manner of persons that have further to do at this Court Leet or Court Baron may from hence depart, and make their appearance here again at two of the clock in the afternoon.

The steward must deliver to the foreman of each Jury the presentments of the preceeding Courts and enter the names of the Jurys.

And the surrenders and admittances in his minute book to be ready against the afternoon. When they are returned at two of the clock, in the afternoon, after proclamation say :—

COURT CALLED AT THE TIME AJOURNED TO.

All manner of persons that were ajourned to appear at this time and place, draw near and give your attendance, and answer to your names.

COURT LEET JURY CALLED AND THEIR PRESENTMENTS.

Call over the names of the Jury of the Court Leet, then ask the Foreman for their presentments, and ask them if they be all agreed of their presentments, and who shall deliver it for them (to which they reply the foreman), and if they are contented it shall be amended in form, so as it be not changed in substance (to which they answer, they are), and the steward alters it in form accordingly. After the Steward has read over the presentment and altered it in form, as aforesaid, and fixed the fines then shall he sware such new officers as are chosen.

OFFICERS SWORN

The oath of the Constable you shall well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King and the Lord of this Leet, in the office of a Constable, in and for this hundred of Mitcheldever, until you be thereof discharged according to due course of law.

You shall well and truly do and execute all things belonging to your office according to the best of your knowledge.

So help you God.

The Tything men in like manner for their respective Tythings.

The Haywards oath.

You shall well and truly serve in the office of Hayward for the year ensuing.

You shall duly execute all such process as shall be directed to you from this court, you shall from time to time signify and present all such pound breaches as shall happen to be made during your continuance in your office, and in everything well and truly behave yourself in the said office.

So help you God.

THE ASSEERERS OATH.

You shall well and truly asseer and afirm the several amerciaments here made, and now to you remembered, you shall spare no one out of love, fear or affection, nor raise or enhance any one out of malice or hatred, but impartially shall do your duties therein.

So help you God.

This oath is usually administered to two of the substantialest and most knowing tenants of the mannor who are to judge of the amerciaments in the Court Baron, and alter them if they see cause.

HOMAGE CALLED PRESENTMENT.

After the Constables and Tything men are sworn call the Homage, ask for their presentments and proceed as in the Court Leet then take surrenders and make admittances.

A SURRENDER IN COURT OF A COPYHOLD ESTATE.

SURRENDERS AND ADMITTANCES TAKEN.

I, A.B. do surrender and yeild up into the hands of John, Duke of Bedford, Lord of the Mannor all that messuage and Tenement with the appurtenances within this Mannor now in the tenure of C.D. and all my Estate, right, type, interest, possession, *reversion*, claim and demand whatsoever, of, in, and to the same, to the end the Lord may do therewith his will, and in token thereof I deliver up this Verge. If this surrender is from two purchasers, one in possession, and the other in reversion they both say the words above, after the steward, with only this difference, He in possession says only *possession*, and leaves out reversion, and he in reversion says only *reversion*, and omits possession, and they both at last deliver up to the Steward a pen, or small rod, commonly called a Verge, which he puts into their hands for that purpose. If three joint purchasers surrender, it is done after the same manner.

If too, say *reversion*.

There's no occasion for a second or third life to surrender if they are not joint purchasers for in such a case the surrender of the first life, the purchaser, is sufficient for all.

After such surrender is taken as above, the Steward proceeds to admittance of

the same life with additions on a new contract. Gentlemen of the Homage you are to take notice that the messuage and tenement with the appurtenances now surrendered is again granted to the said A.B. as sole purchaser (or to A.B. and C.D. as joint purchasers) to hold to him, the said A.B. (or to them the said A.B. and C.D.) and C.D. his sons for the term of their lives, and the life of either of them longest living successively at the will of the Lord, according to the Costom of this Mannor.

By the yearly rent therefor of 6 shillings and 8 pence, and by all other rents, burthens, works, suits, customs and services, therefor due, and of right accustomed, and for such Estate so had in the premises the said A.B. (and C.D. if joint purchasers) gives to the Lord for a fine £40. in hand payed or secured to be paid, and so he is admitted tenant thereof, and I do hereby give you seisin thereof, (delivering him his pen or rod). to hold the same accordingly.

Admittance of a Copyholder in Court, after the death of the first or second life.

You are admitted tenant to all that messuage and tenement with the appurtenances within this Mannor whereof J.K.lately dyed possessed of; and I do

hereby give you Seisin thereof to hold the same for term of your life (or widow hood), according to the Custom of this Mannor.

Then let him sware fealty thus :—

OATH OF FEALTY.

You shall sware to become a true tenant to the most noble John, Duke and Earl of Bedford, Lord of this Mannor, for the Estate to which you are now admitted tenant you shall from time to time bear, pay and do all such rents, duties, services, and customs therefor due, and of right accostomed. You shall from time to time, be ordered and justified in all things at the Lords Courts to be holden in and for the said Mannor of Mitcheldever as other the tenants of the said Mannor for their respective Estates, are, shall or ought to be, and you shall in all things demean yourself as a faithful tenant ought to do.

So help you God.

Then make proclamation and discharge the Court, (the Cryer saying after you) :

COURT DISCHARGED.

All manner of persons that have appeared this day, at this Court Leet and Court Baron, may from hence depart, and keep their day and hour again upon a new Sumonds.

CHAPTER XV

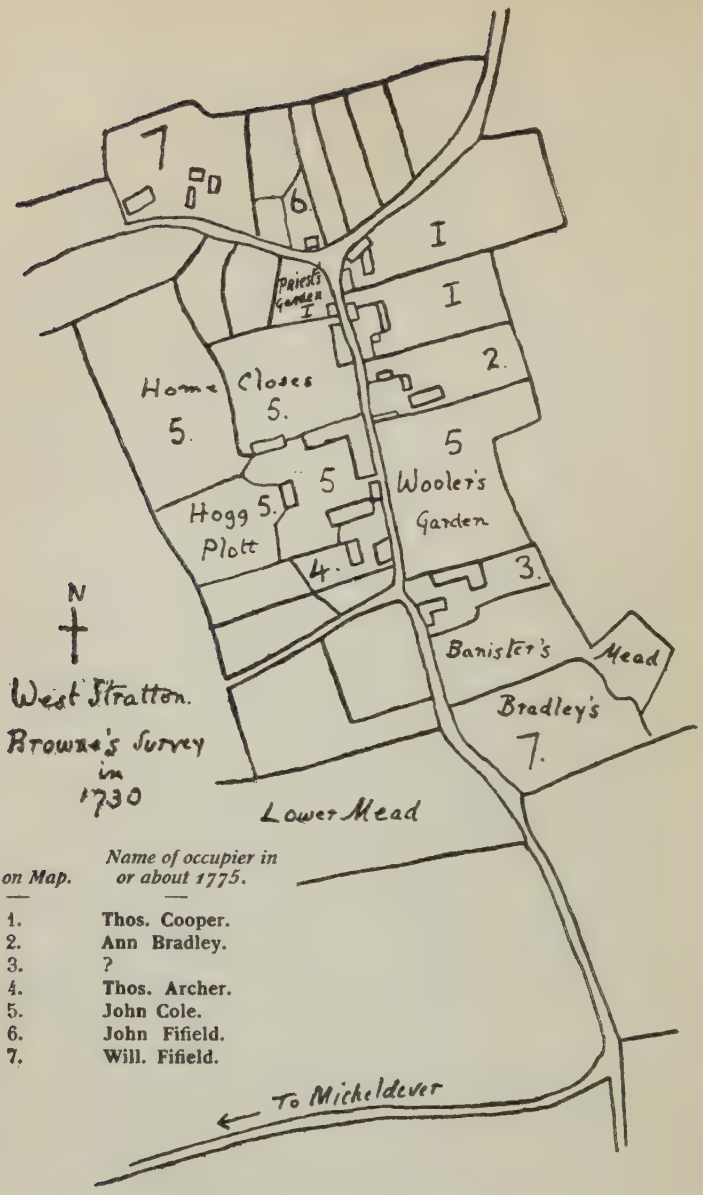
COURT ROLLS

(CONTINUED)

It would obviously be impossible to reproduce the whole of the Micheldever Rolls in this volume. All that can be done is to make a selection of what appear to be the most interesting items. The records for the years 1692-95 are in Latin and of no particular interest. But it may be noted that during those years the steward was Ellis Mews, of Winchester, and that in 1693 the Constables were Brian Marriner and Thomas Dymocke, and the Tything men were:

Micheldever—Thomas Perry; Northbrook—John Cooper; East Stratton—John Ewens; West Stratton—William Fifield; Weston—William Mansbridge; Northington—William Scriven; Popham—William Smith; Cranbourne—Robert Noyse; Abbottsworthy—Archer; Slackstead—John Smith.

In 1694 it is stated that "Mr. John Ede serveth (as Constable) for a tenement and lands his father assigned to him, and to be excused hereafter". In the same year the inhabitants of Popham were fined 5d. each for not having repaired the road from Coxford Hill to the end of Popham Lane and were threatened with a further fine of



No. on Map.	*Name of occupier in or about 1775.*
1.	Thos. Cooper.
2.	Ann Bradley.
3.	?
4.	Thos. Archer.
5.	John Cole.
6.	John Fifield.
7.	Will. Fifield.

WEST STRATTON IN 1730

10d. each in case such repairs were not carried out before the festival of St. John Baptist. The inhabitants of Weston were similarly dealt with in respect of the road leading "from Salter's pond to the cross of Weston" (probably the cross roads).

There is a gap in the record from 1695 to 1713. The "minutes" for the latter year are wholly in English and they are here reproduced in their entirely as a sample of all that follow, and with the original spelling :—

"Micheldever. The View of the Court Pledge together with the Court Baron of Rachel Lady Russell Lady of the Manor, and Court Leet aforesaid there Holden on the tenth day of April Anno Dm. 1713 in the twelth yr. of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne by the grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland Queene Defender of the Faith and before Tho Widmore, Gent. Steward there.

Tything Men's hands :—

Micheldever : Brian Marriner.
Northbrook : Charles Hide.
Weston : Joseph Marriner.
Cranborne : James Wickham.
Slackstead : Thomas Simmes.
Abbotts Worthy : Thomas Waight.
Northington : Thomas Cooper.
East Stratton : Thomas Grant.
West Stratton : William Field (probably Fifield).
Popham : John Oliver.

The hands of the Grand Jury :—

William Archer. Chas. Hide.
James Wickham. John Liffoll.
Thomas Day. Wm. Dyer.
Simeon Kinchin. Thomas Simmes
Stephen Cole. Wm. Hyde.
Joseph Marriner.
Richard Winnell.
John Sharpis.
John Stanbrooke.

Thos. Archer

The presentment of the Grand Jury at the Court Leet held for the Hundred of Micheldever April the tenth 1713.

Item. They p'sent (present) the Church way leading from Ridgefield Stile to Rook Lane to be in default and to be amended by the inhabitants of Southbrook by Midsummer next on paine of two shillings every man making default.

Item. They p'sent Coaches Lane to be in default and to be amended by Midsummer next by the inhabitants of Southbrook and West Stratton one paine of five shillings for every man making default.

Item. They p'sent the Water course from Southbrook Great Bridge to Weston Mill to be at default and to be made wide and sufficient by the owners thereof by Midsummer next on paine of thirty shillings for default made thereof.

Item. they p'sent the stocks of Cranborne to be at default and to be amended by the owners thereof by Midsummer next on paine of five shillings every one making default.

Item. They p'sent Samuel Marshall to serve the office of Tything man in the room of John Oliver for the Tything of Popham for the year ensuing.

Item. They p'sent Thomas Archer to serve the office of Tything man in the room of Thomas Grant for the Tything of East Stratton for the year ensuing.

Item. They p'sent Thomas Sims to serve the office of Tything man for the Tything of Slackstead for the year ensuing.

Item. They p'sent William Elliott to serve the office of Tything man in the room of Thos. Cooper for the Tything of Norrington (Northington) for the year ensuing.

Item. They p'sent John Minchin and Thomas White for not appearing at the Court according to sumons on the penalty of 6d. a piece.

Item. They p'sent fit men to serve the office of Cunstable for the year ensuing (viz) For the West part Charles Hide. Jur. [Jur. = "sworn in"]. For the East part Richd. Hide. Jur.

Homage. Nicholas Whickham, Brian Marriner, Stephen Archer, John Fifield, Stephen Cleverly, John Griffin, William Mansbridge, Reuben Sims, Thomas Wise, William Fifield, Villers Day.

The p'sentments of the Jury of the Homage at ye Court Baron held att Micheldever April 10, 1713.

Imp's. They p'sent the death of Thomas Perry Senr. that he died since the last Court and that Thomas his son is the next taker.

Item. They p'sent the death of Arthur Griffin and John Griffin the next tennt. to one cottage and five acres of land with the apperts. and that John Griffin's life only is now standing out of the premises.

Item. They p'sent the hedges round the common fields in the Tything of Southbrook to be att default and to be amended by the owners thereof by the sixteenth of this instant April on penalty of five every one making default.

Item. They p'sent according to the custom of the Tything of Southbrook it hath been ordered that none should hedge or fence in land in the common fields of Southbrook aforsd. without the general consent of the chief inhabitants of the said Tything on penalty of ten shillings an acre for every one making default And further it hath been ordered that none should turn their cows into the Cowdown or Ersh field to feed in the night time after the Coward hath turned them home on penalty of five shillings every one making default now we hereby rattyfie such p'sent's.

Item. They p'sent the Hedge at Hoaddy Down to be at default and to be amended by the owners thereof on or before the first day of May next on penalty of five shillings every one making default.

Item. They do present and order that all the inhabitants of the Tything of Weston that hath land in ye fields of Weston aforesaid do meet on the 11th day of May next at the Crossway in the middle of the Street and bring with them one pile or stake to a yard land in order to sett forth the bounds between man and man in the fields of Weston aforesaid on penalty of five shillings ever one making default.

Item. They p'sent the death of Arthur Griffin one of the customary Tennts of this Manor that he died since the last Court and yt. Jane his daughter is the next Tennt to one cottage and garden in Micheldever and yt. Jane his daughter is next Tennt. to one other cottage and garden in Micheldever under the rent of eight pence. "Jane admissa tenens sug mors Arthur". (Jane is admitted tenant on death of Arthur.) Then follow four agreements in Latin admitting tenants to various cottages and gardens in Micheldever and East Stratton.

It may be well to say that "the Church way leading from Ridgefield Stile to Rook Lane" means the path running through the fields from the present Beech Avenue and issuing into the lane which passes Southbrook House (the Alms house). The lane, which continues till it reaches Church Street, was called Rook Lane. In old days a branch of the lane turned at right angles close to the walnut trees and ran across the meadow, along what is now the (late) Vicarage cinder path, and so out into Duke Street just below the Northbrook Hall. Both parts were called Rook Lane and gave access to Micheldever House (the Stanesby-Bristow house), very close to the site of which stands the present Southbrook House.

Coaches Lane began at the Beech Avenue gate (in the

fields) and ran straight through to the Highway, just as the present footpath does.

Southbrook Great Bridge is a dignified name for the predecessor of the present bridge over the stream between Northbrook and Southbrook. The spelling of Cowherd as Coward is interesting.

The Ersh field is a stubble field. Those who turned their cows into the Cowdown or Ershfield "after the coward had turned them home" were obviously getting more than their fair share of "feed".

In 1714 John Tilbury is presented for a pound breach, that is, for removing his cattle from the pound without permission.

Other presentments are : the way leading from Slay Lane (Sloe lane), to Micheldever Down gate ; the pound at Northington, the stocks at Popham, and Rook Lane.

In the following year it was reported that neither Rook Lane nor the pounds at Northington and Southbrook had been amended. Consequently those responsible were fined 5/-, 30/- and 10/- respectively. Also "they present the trees to annoy the Highway in White's Lane in the Tything of Weston and the persons to amend it under a penalty of 5/-".

In 1715 the Homage jury presented Joseph Marriner for digging down the bank at Nosbury (Norsbury), the said Joseph to make it good under penalty of 5/- and John Blundell for fencing-in the common at Shaldwell in Northbrook. They also made an order that none should cut any furze on the Down of Northbrook to carry the same out of the Tything (except John Baily for his own use).

The pounds at Northington and Southbrook were still not amended in 1716. The deaths of Thomas Wise, a copyholder, his wife Anne being the next "taker" ; of

Richard Cleverly, his son James being the next "taker", and of Mary Pottinger, a lease-holder, were presented. The Roll has also the following curious record : "They p'sent the death of Henry Blunde (n) and Stephen Archer's close to be at default and to be amended by the said Henry Blunde (n) by the tenth of May next". Dead men tell no tales but appear to have been capable of repairing fences!

It was ordered that none of the inhabitants of Weston should put any hogs or pigs into the Ersh fields without being ringed under penalty of 10/-. The inhabitants of Northbrook were presented for fencing-in land in the said Tything and cutting of furze contrary to the last presentment and the penalty was therefore forfeited. John Tompson was fined 5/- for cutting one load.

Deaths were presented : John Ewen the elder, of East Stratton, and Elizabeth, Anne and Anthony Tice. In consequence of these three deaths "a little parcel of land of the waste soil of the Lady of this Manor lying in the East of Northbrook street, neare Lebes Meade, 50ft. long and 18ft. broad on which a cottage was heretofore erected is fallen into the hands of the Lady of this Manor and that the same is subject to no life or other incumbrances save the widowhood of Mary Tyer, the widow and relict of the said Anthony Tyer and that the Lady of this Manor hath power to grant three lives in the said premises to such persons as she shall think fit".

In 1717 the Homage presents "the Flew of the house which Andrewe Runney lives in to be at default", and John Sanders "for selling of beer having no licence" ; John Wilks for cutting pollard bushes on Southbrook Sheepdown "and for doeing thereof they do order that he pay one shilling".

In 1718 the inhabitants of Southbrook got into trouble for ploughing-up the Church way in Ridge field ; John Bradley was presented for setting his hedge in upon the ground of John Bannister at West Stratton and Nicholas Palmer's flue was at default. It was ordered that none should turn their horses loose in the summer fields in West Stratton.

In 1719 John Blundell, presented four years previously for fencing-in the common at Northbrook, is again in trouble for "ploughing up and denying the Highway through Mr. Cooper's eight acres". He was evidently a cantankerous fellow with little respect for his neighbour's rights. For at the same Court he is further presented for carrying off a load of furze from Northbrook Down to Mrs. Bradley's at Micheldever contrary to an old order, and is fined 5/-. Joseph Marriner is presented for removing a landmark at Weston.

In 1720 the footway "leading from Millgate to William Mansbridge ye shepards in ye Tything of Weston" was in default. Widow Thorpe of Basingstoke was presented "for giving her tenant leave to carry off what straw he please from ye Bargaine at Micheldever". John Stanbrooke (tenant of Warren Farm) was presented for not making the fences between Goddens Downe and Northbrook Downe. In the following year it was ordered that he should "dig up the Cunney Berry's on Northbrook Downe on penalty of 5/- for each one left undigged". The rabbits at the Warren made a valuable addition to the farmer's income and Stanbrooke seems to have allowed them to encroach on the Northbrook Down. Hence the order to dig up their "Berrys", otherwise their burrows. Stanbrooke died in 1729 and by his will left to his sons,

Richard and Stephen, "the stock of conies on the Warren equally between them".

The trouble about his flue seems to have been too much for Nicholas Palmer, for in 1722 it is *widow* Palmer's "flew" which is at default and it was still at default in the following year. West Stratton was required to repair the stocks, and the Tything of Northbrook to find a pair of Stocks and to repair Bilberry Lane.

In 1724 William Vince was presented for turning and blocking-up the Highway leading from Weston to Winchester and William Eedes for ploughing-up the bank "between Farmer Perry and him". Eleven men at Northington were fined 4d. each for not appearing and doing their several services at this Court.

That hoary transgressor, John Blundell, was again before the Court in 1725, and with him Robert Mansbridge, Widow Fifield, Richard Marriner and Thomas Perry, for "oppressing the common and for each of them putting one more beast than they had common for, on the said Downe, and the penalty of 10/- each beast thereupon forfeited according to the former presentment". Widow Palmer has in her turn succumbed to the "flue" (not the modern disease), being reported as having died since the last Court.

No Court seems to have been held in 1726 but in the following year William Fielder of East Stratton was presented "for blacksmith's shop to be out of repair insomuch that the whole Tything is in danger to be fired thereby".

Mr. John Russell seems to have become Steward in 1727-8 and the new broom kept up its reputation. The Court Roll for 1728 is very precise and records that "proclamation was made for all persons to come in and inform the Grand Jury of all treason, etc., and also to enter any

plaints, etc., but none appeared or any person came in to be assoigned. Freeholders etc. called over and usual proclamation made for adjourning ye Court to 3 of the clock in the afternoon". The Leet jury made the following presentments (amongst others) : the way leading from the Great Bridge to the end of Rook Lane to be out of repair, and also that if Robert Mansbridge shall hereafter lay any straw, etc., in the said way he shall forfeit the sum of 10/- for every such offence. (Robert Mansbridge is beginning to run John Blundell pretty close for the first place). The stocks at Southbrook to want repair; Mr. Robert Cropp, farmer, of Stoke Charity "for inclosing the Highway and do fine him 40/- and we do find that he was fined the like sum by a former presentment which is forfeited". The Homage jury came in about six in the afternoon and made their presentments : that "according to the custom of our Manner every coppy holder dying possesst of a coppyhold, his widow is entitled to her Free Bench that is, to possession for her life, and that every coppy holder cannot make any surrender of his coppy without his wife's consent and joining therein".

In the minutes for 1729 there is the following memorandum : "It is this day unanimously agreed by all the tenants of the respective Mannors of East and West Stratton and Hundred of Micheldever that Munday the 12th day of May instant, by the hour of eight a clock in the morning the said tenants shall meet to set out the boundaries and Land Marks of the lands belonging to the said tenants in the common fields of Micheldever, and on Tuesday at the like hour for Weston, Friday for Northbrook, Munday following for West Stratton, in the said Hundred and Mannors under the penalty of five shillings to be levied on every tenant concerned that shall make default and it

is the request of the Said tenants that the above agreement be made an order and it is made an order of this court accordingly".

Robert Cropp, not having restored the Highway "which ought to be upon Stoke ground" is threatened in 1730 with a fine of £5 ; and Miller Thomas Duncombe (of Weston) is to cut the woods in the watercourse from Chaldwell to Weston Mill. William Perry succeeds to a yard land in West Stratton on the death of his father Thomas, Nathaniel Cleverly to a copyhold in Micheldever and William Mansbridge to a copyhold on the death of Frances Mansbridge, widow.

In 1731 the Court presented Elizabeth Fifield, widow, as having died since the last Court, "whereby the messuage and one yard land called "Hookers" in Southbrook is fallen into the hands of the lord and that Richard Fifield her son is the next tenant". He was admitted tenant at a rent of 10/6 a year, and also to his mother's half yard land containing 16 acres of arable land, and one close of half an acre in Southbrook at an annual rent of 4/6.

The threat of a fine of £5 seems to have had its effect on farmer Cropp of Stoke but the Court reports in 1733 that John Hayter, of the same place, has made a fence athwart the common Highway leading from Weston to Winchester and orders him to remove so much of it as shall leave sufficient breadth between the end thereof and Abbots-worthy Sheepdown. The Court presented that farmer Thomas Day, the occupier of Sheephouse farm (now Northbrook House) is of ancient custom entitled to water and depasture his sheep in a lane called Water lane in Northbrook "as others his predecessors have heretofore accustomed and used to do without interruption, the said Thomas Day supporting and maintaining the gate and rails

at the east end thereof as occasion shall require, any persons or person whatsoever pretending the contrary thereof notwithstanding".

It is ordered that no persons whatsoever either on foot or with horses shall travel through East Stratton field whenever the same is sown under penality of 5/- and that none shall cut fern on Goddend Down (The Warren) except the owners thereof. Licence is granted to John Eades of Micheldever, Yeoman, to let his leasehold messuage and two yard land in Southbrook to Andrew Lavington for any term not exceeding eleven year.

The year 1734 brought trouble with Hunton. The Court presents "the owners and occupiers of lands in the Tything of Hunton for turning the King's Highway out of the said Tything into the Tything of Cranbourne within this Hundred without any legal authority for their so doing". This quarrel with Hunton dragged on from year to year, with constant presentments by Micheldever, in one of which the Highway is more particularly described as that leading from Bullington to Basingstoke. In 1738 the presentment prays that "such measures may be pursued for compelling ye inhabitants of the said Tything of Hunton to return the said Highway where it anciently went through their own Tything, as shall be advised by Councell in the discretion of the lord of the said Hundred of Micheldever or his sufficient steward for the time being". Another (the last) presentment was made in 1740, but whether Hunton listened to reason and justice or whether Micheldever gave up the struggle in despair there is nothing to show.

Henry Blunden was appointed Constable for the east part in 1735 but did not appear at the Court to be sworn in. He was therefore ordered to present himself at the

Quarter Sessions at Winchester and there be sworn before one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace under penalty of £5. Presentment was made of the deaths of Nicholas Wickham, John Lavington and William Perry and that "herriots do arise thereby to the lord".

The "railes" between the Churchyard and George Frobin's garden were presented as out of repair in 1736. Farmer Haytor had not yet restored the road from Weston to Winchester. William Fifield found himself in very hot water. He was Tythingman for Popham and for not appearing at the present Court was fined £7/10/-. Henry Blunden (Blunden again) of Northington, one of the Constables, for "not appearing this day" was fined £5 "for such his contempt".

The Court was no respecter of persons. Farmer Lavington was threatened with a fine of 10/- "for hedging of a garden in the common field" ; Robert Bristow, Esq. with a fine of 20/- unless he cleansed the ditch through Bush Mead ; James Hunt, Esq. of Popham was fined 30/- for not repairing a hedge, and threatened with a further penalty of 30/- if the work were not done within a month.

Evidently some of the inhabitants considered that the best place for rubbish of all sorts was the Highway. The Grand Jury several times complained of the practice as being "a very great nuisance", and a danger on account of the possibility of fire, and ruled that every such offence should be visited with a fine of 10/-.

Andrew Lavington was presented in 1737 for hedging-in a piece of ground for a garden in Handon common field. Five years later he was himself a victim, Widow Day being presented for "Grubbing of Andrew Lavington's hedge". An interesting piece of information occurs in the Roll for the same year, the jury presenting it to be "the ancient

custom of the Tything of Northbrook that no one shall turn out any more than two horses or two cows for each yard land that he owns or occupies". (A yard land was about thirty acres.) It was several times put on record that "Robert Bristow hath no right of commons either for horses cows or hogs within any the Tythings belonging to the lord of the Hundred of Micheldever". This certainly agrees with the deed under which Robert Bristow bought the estate.

The Rev. John Imber, Rector of Abbotts Worthy, was presented "for commoning of two cows upon the common of Abbotts Worthy, he having no right of common there and in case he shall offend therein again he is to be fined ten shillings for each cow". Mr. Imber ignored the warning and in the following year was fined a sovereign.

In 1739 the walls, stables and well-house of Edward Olliffe in West Stratton were presented as being "ready to fall", and nineteen other tenements, barns and cottages were reported as being in a dilapidated condition. The owners of the sheep in Southbrook were fined forty shillings each "for letting em break into the Cow common".

Present-day farmers may be interested in the following presentment made in 1741 and repeated, with slight variations as to date, on several occasions: "We present it to be the agreement of the occupiers of land within the Tything of Southbrook that no one shall begin ploughing within the said Tything till Midsummer next except for his fold and the Old Land and half Stickles piece, under forfeiture of 5/- each".

Whether there was no crime in East Stratton or it was so prevalent that the majority preferred to keep the stocks in disrepair we cannot say but a presentment in 1742 runs: "We present the Stocks in East Stratton and do order the

same to be mended according to former presentments under penalty of 5/- each and after two months require the same to be levied, together with the penalties already forfeited by former presentments for their not being repaired in all this time".

The "accustomed place" for the meeting of the Courts appears to have been Stratton House, as the following extract shows : "We present that according to custom of the said Manor the several freehold, leasehold and copyhold tenants ought to pay there respective small rents due to his Grace, at the Annual Courts held at Stratton House in and for the said Hundred and do therefore order the same to be paid accordingly as they will answer the contrary at their perils". From this and other presentments it seems that the Courts were accustomed to bark very fiercely but from the number of persons who ignored their authority and from the slackness in collecting fines, it is obvious that there was very little bite about them.

Coaches Lane ran along what is now the Beach avenue across the fields to West and East Stratton but, strangely enough, it seems not to have been a way for coaches. For the Court ruled that the way leading out of Coaches Lane into Ridgefield (i.e. towards Micheldever) was no Highway and orders that "no one presume to make use of it as such with either horse or cart on penalty of 5/- each trespassing therein". This would prevent its use by the owners of Micheldever House equally with others. If there were no right of getting into or out of Coaches Lane with horse or carriage at the Micheldever end, what was the use of it?

In 1743 the following deaths were presented : Robert Bristow, Esq. late freeholder in Micheldever ; James Hunt, Esq. the elder, and James Hunt, the younger,

late freeholders in Popham. In all three cases a relief or double quit rent accrued to the Lord of the Manor . The Court was somewhat late with its news, as Bristow died six years previously and James Hunt, the younger, two years previously.

William Mansbridge, of Basing, was presented in 1743 for granting a lease of his copyhold estate in Southbrook to Richard Fifield for a long term of years without a licence from the lord or his "sufficient steward". The lease was produced, delivered into Court and cancelled.

It was an ancient custom that the occupiers of the Parsonage farm and of Robert Bristow's farm should each provide a bull for the use of the Tything of Southbrook. Farmer Edwards and farmer Ventham were presented in 1743 for not having made such provision for some years past.

No one was allowed to pasture his beasts in the common fields of Southbrook "until broke" by the occupiers of the farms just mentioned but these farmers were to "break the said field within two days after it had been cleared of the corn there growing".

It was recorded in 1745 that "by the constitution of these Manors no Certificated person has any right to turn out any hogs or pigs into the common fields".

In 1747 it is declared that the lane leading from Coaches Lane to the Highway is the ancient road from West Stratton to Winchester and the same is ordered to be "thrown to common" by Thomas Archer who had been guilty of encroachment.

Three members of the Kinchin family were in trouble in 1749 for "cutting trees on their several copyhold estates without licence and under pretence of making use of it in repairs but have sold and disposed thereof to their own advantage and to the forfeiture of their said customary

estates if the Lord of the Manor shall take advantage there of".

In the following extract from the Roll of 1753 the Duke of Bedford (or his Steward) is respectfully reminded of his duties: "We present that by the law of England the Lord of the Leet ought to hold his Leet once in the year (viz.) within fourteen days of the Feast of Easter or within fifteen days of the Feast of Michelmas, yearly, for the appointing of Constables and Tything men for the said Hundred ; which has been omitted for several years whereby the Hundred have been put to great inconveniency and expence every other year in attending the Sessions at Winchester to get such officers appointed and sworn-in, which we humbly hope upon proper representation to his Grace the Duke of Bedford, Lord of the said Hundred, will be renewed for the future".

The Homage Jury, at a Court held at Stratton House in 1753, presented that "the several freeholders whose names are hereunto written hold of the Lord of the Mannor their respective lands, etc., by the yearly free or quit rents and by suit and services ":

Southbrook and Northbrook:

	£ s. d.
Robert Bristow Esq. for a messuage and farm heretofore the estate of Sir Richard Knight and formerly Mr. Stainsby.....	5. 0. 0½
Thomas Perry for lands late the estate of William Perry his father and formerly Thomas Perry his grandfather.....	3. 4
The Hospital of St. John in Winchester for a tenement and certain lands now held of them by George Bignall and in the occupation of Joseph Vidler.....	2½

	£ s. d.
William Forster for a cottage late the estate of Stephen Cole, heretofore William Bull and formerly Pytter	½
William George Freeman Esq. for four yards land in Northbrook late the estate of Benj. Whitaker, Esq., formerly Cooper	1. 0. 0
John Blundell for half yard land heretofore the the estate of his father	1. 3
Stephen Cole for half yard land late the estate of William Blundell	1. 3
East Stratton :	
Robert Bristow, Esq. for a wood by Dodsley Coppice one peppercorn.	
Weston :	
Joseph Ollyffe for five yards land late John Ollyffe's	2. 2. 6
William Fifield for three yards land and an half, late John Wayte's	2. 1.10½
John Archer for two yards land late Stephen Archer's	1. 1. 1
Sir Thomas Heathcote for the Mill and five acres land	4. 0
for Studdy Mead and Shady Croft	1. 0
Popham :	
Ann Hunt, otherwise Prentiss, holds a Manor in Popham late the estate of John Hunt, Esq.	16. 6

No Court appears to have been held between 1753 and 1757 and again between the latter year and 1769, by which date William Russell had become Steward in place of John Russell.

In 1769 the youth of Southbrook must have been disgusted to find that the Tything is presented for not

having Stocks and is ordered to set up a pair by November. It is presented also that the way called the Burying Road, leading from East Stratton to Micheldever ought not to be used by any waggons, carts or other carriages save such as carry corpses. William Elliott is to continue in his office of Hayward during 1770 and is to be allowed four pence for every horse impounded by him, four pence for each cow, two pence for each hog or pig and one farthing for each head of sheep. In this year Peter Pomfrey, of Northbrook, Malster, was appointed Constable.

The miller at Weston in 1771 was William Gandy who is ordered to repair the bank in Water Lane. Farmer Robert Moody is a somewhat frequent offender at this time, ploughing up certain footpaths and fencing-in common field lands. William Fifield died in 1770-1.

The names of freeholders are again given in 1771 and the list shows that Bristow has absorbed the estates of Freeman and Stephen Cole, and is tenant of the land belonging to St. John's Hospital. Robert Mansbridge has come into possession of half a yard land late John Blundell's. At Weston, Col. Christopher Gauntlett is owner of five yards land, sometime Joseph Olliffe's, and late of Mary Gauntlett, widow, deceased. Elizabeth Fifield has succeeded to three and a half yards land lately in possession of her husband William Fifield, deceased.

In the same year, that old offender Robert Moody is at his tricks again, this time imitating the prowess of Samson and carrying away the gate in Butt Lane. He is ordered to restore it and make good the hedge under penalty of £2/0/0. This presentment was repeated every year up to and including 1777, Moody apparently taking no notice whatever but adding to his transgressions by enclosing a piece of waste land in the latter year!

In 1772 it is stated that the several common fields of East Stratton have lately had their boundaries marked and set out by the Homage Jury and others, and that a survey and plan have been made by Edward Richardson, Surveyor.

The View of Frank Pledge with the Court Leet and Court Baron, October, 1776, was held in the name of Robert Bristow, Esq. Lord of the said Manor as Lessee of the trustees of the late Duke of Bedford. Bristow died in December of the same year. William Fifield, one of the Constables, was fined forty shillings for not appearing at this Court. It was also put on record that on one had a right to enclose any of the common field land of East Stratton without the consent of all the occupiers of lands in the said fields.

In November 1778 James Threlkeld Esq. of Popham, was chosen as Constable but Thomas Threlkeld, his younger brother, seems to have been appointed. For a note on the following page in the Roll states that George Galloway, of Popham, Yeoman, was, on March 30, 1779, sworn-in to that office, "in the room of Thomas Threlkeld, Esq. the younger, he being non-resident within the Hundred".

From this date there is no record of any Court being held until 1809 when Sir Francis Baring was Lord of the Manor.

CHAPTER XVI

LOCAL WILLS.

For the purpose of this history the writer has copied at Somerset House or in the Probate Office at Winchester between fifty and sixty wills made between 1500 and 1795 by persons resident in or connected with the old parish of Micheldever. Space does not permit the reproduction of many of them in this book but the more interesting items are given.

The usual form of the earlier wills runs thus:—

"In the Name of God, Amen. I..., whole of mind and sick in body, nevertheless dreading the pill of death, ordain and make this my last will and testament. First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God my maker and Redeemer and unto Our Lady Saint Marye and unto all the Holy Company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the Church Lytton of Micheldever".

"The pill of death" is a quaint expression conveying the idea of something unpleasant which has to be swallowed or endured.

Lytton (lich, a corpse and tun, an enclosure) is an old name for burial ground.

There is a great contrast between the religious feeling expressed in these old wills and the complete absence of

anything of the sort in those dated later than, say, 1790.

The earliest will copied is that of Robert Bennett, citizen and tailor, of Allhallows, London (dated 1501). He leaves "20d. to be bestowed in sheets and smokks and other things such as shall please myne executors, the same to be disposed amongst the poor people of the Parish of Micheldever in the county of Southampton". Probably Bennett had been a Micheldever lad and had worked his way up to a comfortable position.

Another interesting will is that of Alice Leff in 1523. Her maiden name was evidently Warham and she describes herself as of the parish of Ashe near Basingstoke. Was she related to William Warham, also of the parish of Ashe, who was Archbishop of Canterbury 1503-1533? She desires to be buried in the "Churchyard of the Trinity of Micheldever within which my fader, moder and husbonde be buried". She leaves to the Church a pair of vestments, price five marks. "I will that a priest be found the space of two years at the arter of Jesus to pray for the soul of me, my fader, my moder and my husbonde in the said parish Church, the said priest to say mass at East Stratton every second Sunday during the space of the said two years. Also my executor shall at his discretion bye a pair of Vestments, altar clothes, chalis, boke and crewetts for the said Priest to synge with during the said space and, after that, they are to remain to the said Jesus arter".

She leaves a small sum of money to the Church of Oakley to maintain the light at Easter before the Sepulchre. To East Stratton and Popham Churches 3/4 each. To Johane Smyth, of Micheldever, her wedding gowne, and to Elizabeth Smyth, her daughter (Mrs. Leff's servant) her violet gowne and her best kirtell and best girdell, "a featherbed with apparell, six silver spones, a dozen of pewter vessell, a

pott, a panne, a cordern, a chest, fifty sheep, a cow and fifty marks of money". To Alice Small her old puke gowne, to Margaret Smyth her old russett gowne and her Kirtell, to Agnes Smyth her servant, a pott, a panne, a matress, a bolster, a white tester, four pair of sheets, a coverlet, a blankett, eight pieces of pewter vessell, thirty shepe and a kowe. To Hyed Smyth, her servant, a mattress, bolster, coverlet, blankett, two pair of sheets, a pott, a panne, half a dozen of pewter vessell, a chest, two shepe and a bullok. To Mawd Aylof her "coral bedes garded with silver, and gilt". (Her prayer beads or rosary.) The rest of her property she leaves to her son John Leff, priest.

A John Leffe, probably the same person, was Rector of Ashe from 1517-1557-8. The will speaks of the Churchyard of the *Trinity* at Micheldever but in Alice Lamball's will of 1529 it is described as the Churchyard of Our Lady. This, as the equivalent of Saint Mary, the present name of the Church, is probably correct.

The mention of the altar of Jesus reminds us of the old practice of having several altars in a Church, with candles burning before them. Quite a number of such altars in our Church are mentioned in the various wills. There was the High (or principal) altar, the altar of Jesus, another of St. Catherine, another of our Lady(in the North aisle) another of St. Nicholas, another of our Lady of Pity, and (in 1537) "two new altars".

It was customary to leave money for masses to be said on the day of burial, again in a month's time, called the month's mind (remind), and again in a year's time, called the year's mind. Also pious persons left a sum of money to the Church for "tithe and oblations forgotten" i.e. a sort of conscience money in case the maker of the

will had, at some time or other, forgotten to pay to the Church what was due from him. Peter Lysse, for instance, in 1538, leaves to the High altar of the Church fourpence "for oblations forgotten". He desires to have at his burying "three masses for my soul and at my month's mynd three masses and at my year's mind other three masses." John Drogge in 1539 says "I will have at my buryinge three masses at Popham and two at Micheldever ; at my month's mynd two masses at Popham and two at Micheldever. I will have all my months dyriges [dirges] at Popham and three masses to be said within the month and the Priest to have for his dirges five shillings, and sixteen pence for his masses."

Some idea of the personal belongings and estate of individuals living in the Parish between 1538 and 1540 may be gathered from the following extracts : Peter Lysse bequeaths to a daughter two platters and a panne, to another daughter two platters and a pott, to his son two great andirons and a pott, "their mother to have the use of these articles during her life".

John Newell leaves to his daughter Christian ten sheep and a quarter of wheat and another of malte ; to his son Thomas "ye elder of ye name", seven sheep, the best of his horses "ye lorde buyd", a red cow, and a quarter of wheat and one of barley. Agnes his daughter received seven sheep, a bullock and half a quarter of wheat and malt ; his son Thomas "ye younger of ye name" and his daughter "Alleys", ditto.

Peter Symes bequeathes "a ewe sheep to the rode light of the Chapell of West Stratton". The "rode light" is the light burning before the rood or screen separating the chancel from the nave. The Chapel of West Stratton was a Chantry Chapel under the control of the Vicar of

Micheldever. This reference to it is the latest the writer has come across and was made in October 1540. The Chapel apparently disappeared between that date and 1730 as it is not marked on an estate map of the latter year. Not a trace of it is now to be found nor is there any local knowledge of the site.

John Faukner disposes by will of one candere, one silver crown, a flocke bede, and two shytts, one coverlet, eleven sheettes and a coffer. Nicolas Fygyn leaves to the Chapel of Stratton (East?) three ewes, one of them to the Chapel and the others to the Rode light ; he leaves several platters and pottingers and a pair of sheetes, one of lockram and another of canvas, a brass pott and some cacheffes (handkerchiefs?), a petycote and a cappe and "unto my Curate 12d." Many Micheldever wills are witnessed by the Curate, the following names occurring in this connection : Sir Hugh Duncalfe, Sir Michael Payne, Sir John Buccokke, Sir Lewys, Sir John Hybudde (1529), Sir Richard Godfrey (1528), Sir Lewis Cade (1529) probably the same as "Sir Lewys", and Sir James Stagge (1552).

John Tomes, of Weston, in 1547, leaves to his son, one ewe and three sheep and a "white doublet of buck skynnes" ; to another son, a doublet of worsted ; and to a third son, a coat and "a leather doublet tanned of buck skynnes".

The will of Sarah Archer, spinster, of Weston, is worth reproduction as an example of honourable dealing and reparation on behalf of a dead brother. The will was made in 1758 but Sarah lived till 1764 in which year the will was proved. She gives to Mary, Hannah and Ann Bailey, executors of the will of Thomas Wise, late of Micheldever, yeoman, £15 ; to Ann, wife of John Archer, £15 ; to Sarah, wife of Joseph Vidler, £11 ; to her cousin Thomas Archer, of West Stratton, £2/9/- ; to her nephew William

Fifield, £2/2/0 "which said legacies I design as a satisfaction for the loss to them incurred through the insolvency of my late brother Stephen Archer, deceased".

She also gives to Elizabeth, wife of William Fifield £5 ; to Mary, their daughter £5 ; to Sarah Vidler £5 and one holland tablecloth marked Sa E, one gold ring, a pewter platter and one chest. To Ann Archer £5 and a stone ring ; to Mary (Ann's daughter) £5, one holland sheet, seven silver spoons and all her china. Also to Ann Archer (daughter of John Archer) £5, her two-handled silver cup and her largest Bible. To John and Thomas Archer (sons of John) each £5 and two silver spoons. To the poor of Micheldever £5 and the rest to the said John Archer.

Nathaniel Cleverly, cordwainer, (shoemaker), of Micheldever died in 1713 and the following is a list of his goods and chattles with values :

	£ s.d.
Wearing apparel and money in cash.....	2. 0.0
One feather bed and bedstead with bedding thereto belonging.....	2. 0.0
One chest, three coffers and one old chest and coffer	12.6
Two hull beds and bedsteads, with bedding....	1. 5.0
One parcel of wool and other small goods.....	1. 0.0
In the kitchen, one table board, three joynt stools, one form and other wooden goods.....	18.0
The brass and pewter.....	1. 5.0
One grid iron, one spit and fire pan and tongs, two andirons and other small goods.....	10.0
The brewing vessel and tubs and other lumber..	1. 2.6
In the buttery : four barrels, one salting and other small goods.....	1. 4.0
The corn in the barn and upon the ground.....	13. 0.0

	£ s. d.
The goods and leather in the shop.....	4. 0.0
Two hoggs.....	4. 0.0
Two cows and thirteen sheep.....	8. 0.0
The wood in the backside and nine stocks of bees.	1.10.0
Due upon book.....	10. 0.0
Total	53. 7.0

The debts owing by him amount to £39/16/0.

Thomas Winckworth, yeoman, of Southbrook, by his will dated 1659 gives small legacies to the Church and the Poor and an annuity of £8 to his wife Elizabeth: to his son-in-law Philip Alingham £46/13/0 on condition that "at or before the receipt of the money he shall give unto my executors a bond of £120 to leave his now wife three score pounds, if he shall die before his said now wife. If he refuse he shall have but £10". He gives his right in Sheephouse farm to his executors to provide house room for his father and mother. The will is witnessed by Richard Stanesby and John Cooper. Sheephouse farm stood on the site of what is now Northbrook House, lately the residence of Capt. H. L. Kemble and now the property of Capt. R. Philipson.

Reference has already been made to the will (1586) of John Hunt of West Stratton. His daughter Anne married Thomas the younger, son of Edmund Clerke. John Hunt was a man of substance and perhaps some local importance. He leased the farms both at West and East Stratton and owned the Manor of Hunton. He lent to Lady Southampton £100 and to Pexall Brocas £6. The mention of the latter person opens an interesting page in Hampshire history.

The family of Brocas owned Beaurepaire, near Sherborne St. John, from 1353 to 1873, more than 500 years,

and played a great part in the history of the county. The grandfather of Pexall Brocas died in 1571 and his widow married, as her second husband, Sir John Savage. When her grandson, young Pexall Brocas, came of age in 1584 Lady Savage refused to vacate Beaurepaire. There were constant quarrellings and lawsuits between the parties until her death in 1617 when the house was surrendered. Naturally there was no love lost between Pexall Brocas and the Savages, whom he regarded as cuckoos—or worse. But no one could have been worse than Brocas. His extravagance and vice knew no bounds. In the last days of Elizabeth he was convicted of riot and forgery but was pardoned by James I, who immediately made him a Knight (1603). Ten years later Brocas had to do open penance at St. Paul's Cross where he was made to stand in a white sheet with a stick in his hand, having been convicted of scandalous conduct. The punishment made little impression upon this scapegrace for, attended by thirty men in scarlet, he went immediately afterwards to the Lord Mayor and demanded dinner! He died in 1630 and is said to have been buried at Sherborne St. John but there is no memorial of him there. He was always over head and ears in debt and so one is not surprised to find him borrowing £6 from John Hunt. We should like to know the circumstances in which the acquaintance was made.

Curiously, we come into touch with the Brocas family again through the will of another Hunt, this time of Popham. The Hunts bought the Manor of Popham in 1553 and it remained in the family for over 200 years. James Hunt died in 1605 and in his will dated 1603 he says: "I do make my tristed and well-beloved frende Mr. Edward Savage Esquire, of Bradley, and Peter Hunt,

my son, to be overseers of this my last will and testament and I give to every one of them for their pains two angelles a piece". (An Angel was a coin worth 10/0, bearing the figure of St. Michael the Archangel.) The Bradley here mentioned is the village of that name near Herriard and the "well beloved friend Mr. Edward Savage" was son and heir of Sir John Savage who married Lady Brocas and kept Pexall Brocas out of Beaurepaire.

So we have a curious situation. John Hunt of West Stratton is on sufficiently friendly terms with Pexall Brocas to lend him £6 and James Hunt of Popham is putting on record his own friendship with Edward Savage—Brocas' mortal enemy! The writer has not been able to trace any family relationship between these two Hunts but it would not be surprising to learn that they were brothers. That brothers should take opposite sides in a quarrel is not contrary to human experience. Neither Hunt mentions the other in his will. The Hunts of Popham came originally from Kingsclere and were connected with the Hunts of Bentworth and also with the Withers. Several of them are buried in Micheldever Church.

To return to John Hunt of West Stratton. By his will (1586) he desires to be buried in the Church of Micheldever. To his wife Elizabeth he gives his lease etc. of East Stratton farm and to his son-in-law Thomas Clarke the Younger and "my daughter his wife", the lease, etc., of West Stratton farm. To the children of his brother William—£10 to be divided between them, except the portion of Richard, which William Hunt shall during his life employ to the use of the said Richard. To each of the children of his brother Roger a gold ring, for a remembrance, to the value of 5/0 each. To John and Elizabeth Erle, children of Henry Erle, of Kingsworthy, two ewe togs each. To

his sister Johan Pescod and to Jane Horben of Wherwell rings of gold, value 5/o each ; to his cousin Elizabeth Maton, wife of Robert Maton of Chesenburge in Wilts, ditto ; the residue of his property to his wife and son-in-law. He appoints his well beloved friends William Browne Gent, and Thomas Voxe of Micheldever yeoman, overseers. The will concludes with the earnest appeal to Edmund Clarke quoted previously.

An inventory was made and is attached to the will and is interesting as showing the possessions of a yeoman at Micheldever in the days of Elizabeth, two years before the Armada, and their value. It should be remembered that the purchasing power of money in those days was from eight to ten times as great as it was in England in June 1914.

"In the Hall of West Stratton :	£ s. d.
four tables, six joyned stooles, four forms, two playne chairs, two lowe womens stooles covered with black and green stuffed mockalowe..	20.0
two carpetts, four cusshins, the painted clothes, a banker clothe and two curtaines for the windows	20.0
[Painted cloths were pictures on canvas and were a substitute for tapestry. A banker cloth was a covering for a bench or chair. It denoted originally the cloth with which the early bankers covered the bench on which they sat and on one end of which they "rang" the coins.]	
a cupboard with a frame, two andirons, one iron fyre prong, a fyre panne.....	20.0
a corslet, one calliver, two bowes and two shefes of arrows, six swords, four daggers, a murrion to the calliver with a flaske touch box, six	

	£ s.d.
charges, a jack, a light horseman's staffe, a case of daggers, a saddle, a forest bill and a black bill.....	3. 0.0
[A calliver was a hand-gun and a murrion was a helmet for the use of the man who worked it.]	
In the chamber he died in :	
one frieze gown, four payrs of gaskin hosen, one payr of drawers, four dubletts, one petticote of cotton, two clokes, six jerkins, one of Spanish leather, two pairs of boots, three paires of showes, three paires of stockings, one hatt, one payre of spurrs, three shirts...	4. 0.0
[A doublet was a garment fitting close to the body, with skirts extending a little below the girdle or belt. A jerkin was a kind of waist-coat.]	
Of white blanketing, 28 yards.....	1. 6.8
one feather bed and bolster, two flock bedds and two bolsters, three coverlettes, one payre of blankettes, two standing beddes, one truckell bedd, the stayned hangings in the chamber..	3. 0.0
three chests and three little cofers.....	12.0
twenty eight pairs of canvas sheetes and one sheete	7. 0.0
of fine Holland lockeram and canvas sheetes...	2.14.4
three table cloths, one dozen napkins, six towells, three corse table clothes.....	1.13.4
In the upper servants chamber :	
one course bedstead, a flock bed, a bolster, a blankett, one old chest and other old stuffe, four old chests without lidds, one ould close stoole.....	13.4

	£ s.d.
In the ould parlour :	
one feather bed and two bolsters of flock, two flock bedds, two coverlettes, one payre of blankettes, one standing bedstead sealed, one playne standinge bedstead with a white tester and certayne stayned clothes.....	1. 0.0
[A tester is a flat canopy over a bed and a "bedstead ceiled" is one with posts rising from each of the four corners to support a roof or ceiling which covers the whole bed.]	
In the parlor :	
two solid beddstedds, two feather bedds, two fether bolsters, two payrs of blanketts. too coverlettes, six fustian pillowes, three payre of Holland pillowberes, two payrs of Locker-am pillowbers, the curtains for both the bedsteads and the hangings thereof.....	6 0.0
[Pillowbers are pillow cases.]	
one chest and one coffer.....	10.0
one payre of blankettes, one coverlett of tapestry and one of yaren.....	1. 6.8
In the chamber over the Hall :	
two playne bedstedds, one course flock bedd, one blankett, too coverletts, one chese rack and a fether bolster.....	10.0
In the Chamber over the entry :	
two playne bedstedds, too flock beddes, too flock bolsters, too coverlettes.....	13.4
In the husbandmens chamber :	
two playne bedstedds, two coverlettes, too course boulsters, too playne coverings.....	5.0
[The house contained fourteen bedsteads in all.]	

	£ s.d.
ten barrels, four upstands, six cooling kivers, one bruing vate, one kneding kiver, three mault tubbs, one boulting whitch, one meale tub, three virkins, two olde vates, a hen coope, a hog-washe tub, one butter churne, one capon coop.....	1. 6.8
In the kitchen :	
one bruing furnace of brasse, six brasse pots, six kittols, three pans, three killotts and one oulde cawdron.....	4.10.0
three pott hangers, two spitts, too andirons, three gridirons, three pot hooks, one oven peele, two trevettes, two new dripping pannes. one chopping knife, one smiting knife.....	13.4
one vate, one oulde vatte, too tubbs, too barrels, one coope, six dishes, six spones, too platters, three treen platters [wooden plates].....	8.0
twelve rakes, fourteen prongs, four forks, certayne rip hookes, one sithe.....	5.0
In the larder house :	
two poudring tubbs, four bucking tubbs, six bucketts, ten crutches for grease, two paires of sheepe sheres, two dozen dishes, four dozen trenchers, four ale cuppes, six treen platters, one ladell, two dozen spoones, three chase vates, three milk boules, two planches, two silte tubbs, two heade potts.....	10.0
In the silting house :	
one silting trowe, three basketts, three shelfes, a torne, a pair of small cards, two payre of stock cards, a reale, a beame and scales a todd and a half to way with..... [A todd = 28lbs. of wool.]	13.4

	£ s.d.
two ewers, three basons, two dozen platters, a dozen of pottingers, a dozan of sucers (saucers), six porringers, one colander, two porter potts, a little cuppe of pewter, four saltes, four flower potts, two candle sticks, two potts	2. 3.8
one morter, one chafing dish, five candell sticks and two stone cupps	6.8
two axes, three hedging bills, one butchers axe, two hatchetts, three iron wedges, two iron bars, two pitchers, two mattocks, four shovels, one spade, certayne ould iron, one hand saw, four augers, one long sawe, one rimble	10.0
Twenty sacks, two winnow sheetes, one here, two bushells, two willes, three seeves, three kidders, three wyer [wire] mills to trie corn.	1. 6.8
In the yarde :	
the fewell [fuel] wood	5. 0.0
grinding stone and one chese press	2.6
two well buckets, two watering trowes, eight cow racks, four hogg trewes, two pig trewes, and five ladders	12.0
[From the spelling, it would appear that the Elizabethan pronunciation of "trough" was "trow" or "trew".]	
In the barne at East Stratton :	
seventy quarters of wheat	81.13.4
forty quarters of barley	20. 0.0
eight quarters of oots	2. 2.8
for peasen	1.10.0
fourteen quarters of maulte, by estimation	4. 6.8
five hundred and six ewes, rams and grattings	83. 6.8
six score and twelve teggs	15.10.0

At West Stratton :	£ s.d.
one gelding with the bridoll and saddle.....	3.10.0
eighteen carte horses and their apparrell for ploughs and carte.....	60. 0.0
six oulde horses.....	4. 0.0
six carts, one carr, one pair of wheels unbound.	8. 0.0
three corn ropes, six wood ropes, one crampion lever	12.0
three plowes with their apparrell and twelve harrows	3. 0.0
twenty five kyne and a bull.....	40. 0.0
eight bullocks of two years of age.....	8. 0.0
six bullocks of one year of age.....	3. 0.0
fifteen yewelings.....	3. 0.0
four fatting steeres and two kyne.....	15. 0.0
forty hoggs.....	14. 0.0
twenty five shutts.....	3. 6.8
eight sucking pigs.....	4.0
twenty one gese.....	13.0
thirty hennes and cox. four couple of capons, one dozen of chekins.....	18.0
twenty eight ducks.....	9.4
twenty fatting shepe.....	4. 0.0
fifty two todds of wooll, by estimation.....	41.12.0
too todds of lambs wooll.....	13.4
one todd of Locks.....	6.8
one salt seller of silver and eleven silver spoones	5. 0.0
In the barne at West Stratton :	
sixty quarters of wheate.....	70. 0.0
sixty quarters of barley.....	30. 0.0
thirteen quarters of oates.....	3. 6.8
peaze and fetches.....	12. 0.0
thirty lods of heaye [loads of hay], by estimation.	15. 0.0

	£ s.d.
five hundred wether sheepe.....	100. 0.0
Debts owing to the said deceased :	
Owing by the Countis of Southe., by obligation.	100. 0.0
Owing by Mr. Pexall Brocas, by his bill.....	6. 0.0
The lease of East Stratton ferme.....	60. 0.0
The lease of West Stratton ferme.....	13. 6.8
In reddy money at the time of his decease.....	20. 0.0
,, ,, ,, ,, ?....	15.0
Total	913.19.8

We may compare certain items in this inventory with similar items in that taken at Popham on the death of James Hunt in 1605—nineteen years later.

John Hunt, 1586.		*James Hunt*, 1605.	
28 pairs of canvas sheets	£7.0.0	20 pairs of canvas sheets	£6. 0.0
three ploughs & twelve harrows	3.0.0	two ploughs and six harrows .	1.13.4
14 qrs. of malt	4.6.8	10 qrs. of malt	10. 0.0
60 qrs. of wheat	70.0.0	5 threshed and 25 unthreshed qrs. of wheat.....	25. 0.0
40 qrs. of barley	20.0.0	40 qrs. of barley	32. 0.0
8 qrs. of oats.....	2.2.8	6 qrs. of oats, threshed and unthreshed	2.10.0
8 bullocks of 2 years	8.0.0	8 bullocks of 2 years	5. 6.8
500 wether sheep	100.0.0	400 folding sheep	130. 0.0

Only a rough comparison can be made as we are ignorant of size, condition, etc. Looking through these two inventories one is struck with the apparent superiority of the West Stratton house. It had a Hall, seemingly large and much more plentifully furnished than that at Popham, the contents being valued at £6 as against £1/6/8. At West Stratton there were, in addition to the Hall, John Hunt's bedroom, the old parlour, the new parlour, the chamber over the Hall, the chamber over the entry, the upper servants' chamber, the husbandmen's chamber and the

kitchen. At Popham the only rooms mentioned are the Hall, James Hunt's bedroom, the little gesen (guest) chamber, the best gesen chamber and the kitchen.

A good deal of the Popham house still exists. The West Stratton house has entirely disappeared.

CHAPTER XVII

WEST STRATTON.

THE following account of the Manor of West Stratton is abstracted from the V.C.H. by the very kind permission of the General Editor.

West Stratton, granted to Hyde Abbey with the Manor of Micheldever was among the lands occupied by a freeman before the Conquest and was afterwards held of the Abbot by Hugh de Port and his successors. By the 13th century they had enfeoffed the Braibœufs, of Candover, of this Manor, the actual tenant in 1167 being Richard de Stratton. In 1199 Richard, son of Robert, obtained quit-claim of a virgate of land in Stratton from Lavinia Perchechaie. Four years later a Richard de Stratton was pardoned 6 marks for scutage which he owed for a fee held of the barony of the Abbot. In 1226-7 Stephen de Stratton witnessed a charter to the Abbot of Hyde and later in the same century Walter de Stratton held of the Abbot half a Knight's fee in Stratton. A William de Stratton, Knt. witnessed a charter to the Abbot of Hyde in 1258 and again in 1278. William de Stratton was holding a whole fee, probably the Manor of West Stratton in 1284. He had a son Richard who had succeeded his father as lord of the Manor before 1315. He

was knighted before 1325 and in that year conveyed the Manor of West Stratton with a messuage and land there, to Stephen de Stratton, parson of Worthy, for life, with remainder to William Wayte for life, and final remainder to the latter's son Thomas Wayte. William Wayte was in possession by 1346 and his grandson John Wayte presented to West Stratton Chapel in 1398 and was succeeded by his son Thomas before 1403. In 1428 he was said to hold one fee there. Thomas Wayte was still lord of the Manor in 1431. His grandson William was living in 1487 and in Feb. 1527-8 John Wayte, brother and heir of John Wayte, sold all his Hampshire estates, including West Stratton, to his kinsman Arthur Plantagenet Viscount Lisle, for £2,000, on condition that he should have food and lodging within the Viscount's house whenever he willed, and again in 1530 John Wayte conveyed the same lands to Viscount Lisle, Sir Richard Lister, Chief baron of the Exchequer, and many others, and the heirs of Sir Richard Lister. Hence it appears that Viscount Lisle's rights in West Stratton were transferred to Sir Richard Lister, to whom a certain Robert Fawkenor and his wife Joan quitclaimed their rights in the Manor eight years later. Sir Richard Lister paid 35s. rent of assize for a capital messuage with its appurtenances called "Waytslands" in West Stratton in 1539. Sir Richard evidently parted with West Stratton before his death in March 1553-4, to his father-in-law, Thomas Wriothesley who died seised of it in 1550.

CHAPTER XVIII

POPHAM.

THE Manor of Popham was granted with that of Micheldever to the New Minster. It was held by the Popham family from about 1200 to 1445 in which year Stephen de Popham died, leaving his lands in trust for his four daughters. The various Pophams of Popham are only names to us, history recording very little about them. But they held an honourable position in the county and were frequently Knights of the Shire. There is a local tradition that one of them was spirited away one fine morning, chained to a post in a dell, kept there for several years, and only discovered and released to the sound of the Church bells heralding the wedding of his supposed widow. That there were probably no bells to ring, is an irrelevent detail, as is the fact that bells are generally rung *after* a wedding, though the lord of Popham is credited with being in time to prevent the ceremony! Probably the story originated in a lengthy absence of one of the de Pophams on a Crusade. A further tradition has it that a "Lord Popham" of gigantic proportions was buried in Micheldever Church. (There never was a "Lord" Popham ; however, the title is a pardonable error.) But

there are no traces of any de Popham burials in Micheldever Church, nor does the family appear to have buried its dead at Popham, where there was a Chantry Chapel attached to the house.

Sir John Popham who died in 1463 was, according to Stow, buried in the Cloister of the Charter House, London. On the dissolution of this House in 1536-7 the monuments were sold and among them a brass with a representation of Sir John. A few years ago this brass was discovered in the Church of St. Laurence, Reading, with the originally blank side doing duty as a memorial to Walter Barton who died in 1528! The brass is still to be seen in St. Laurence Church.

By the marriage of one of the De Popham heiresses soon after 1445 the Manor passed to the Barantyne family and was ultimately sold to Hugh Hunt of Kingsclere in 1552. It remained in this family for over two hundred years.

James Hunt by his will in 1741 left all his real estate to his wife Theophila, née Baker, of Kingsclere, whom he had married in the previous year. On her death without children the estate was to pass to his sister Louisa Hunt, who was also left a legacy of £5,000. The executors were Col. Thomas Fowke (afterwards Lieut.-Gen. and Governor of Gibraltar) and Thomas Threlkeld, of Tritlington near Morpeth,.

Threlkeld afterwards married Louisa and lived at Popham.

His father was Deodatus Threlkeld, son of a Clergyman in the county of Durham and born in France about the year 1657 of a French Mother. Deodatus Threlkeld was trading on his own account as a watch and clock maker in Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1691 and was of considerable repute and standing. Helped by the marriage portions

of his wives (he had three—in succession) he bought a rent charge of £30 a year issuing out of lands called "The Lee" in the township of Riding-Mill-on-Tyne, and also a half share in the Manor of Tritlington near Morpeth. At Tritlington he built himself a house which is still standing. In 1709 the Society of the Sons of the Clergy was established in Newcastle—Nathaniel Clayton and Deodatus Threlkeld being the chief promotors and first Stewards. (Sykes Local Records, Vol. I.)

Deodatus Threlkeld's son, Thomas, was born in Newcastle in 1707. How or when he came to know the Hunts of Popham does not appear but it was evidently before 1741 by which date Thomas is a trusted friend of James Hunt. He married Louisa Hunt sometime before 1748 and had at least three children :—Elizabeth, born at Tritlington 1747-8, James Matthew William, and Thomas, born 1760. According to the Micheldever Court Rolls, James (a clerical error for "Thomas"?) Threlkeld, Esq. of Popham was appointed Constable in 1778. In the following year there is a Memorandum that "George Galloway, of Popham, yeoman, was on the 30th. of March, 1774, sworn as Constable in room of Thomas Threlkeld, Esq., the younger, he being non-resident within the Hundred." This Thomas entered Wadham College, Oxford, in 1777 and apparently married before he was twenty. For a Mrs. Thomas Threlkeld who died May 18, 1780, aged twenty years, and was buried in the Popham vault in Micheldever Church may reasonably be regarded as his wife. We may hazard a guess that the cause of Thomas' non-residence in 1779 was the fact that he was on his wedding tour or making a long stay in some watering place for the benefit of his young wife's health. His father Thomas Threlkeld the elder (who married Louisa Hunt)

was alive in August 1784 (in which year he sold the Tritlington estate) but died before 1791. For in the latter year Louisa Threlkeld, disposing of Popham Manor to the Duke of Bedford, is described as a widow. No further records of either Hunts or Threlkelds have been found.

It is possible that connection might be made between the Threlkelds and Popham, prior to 1741, on the following lines.

A William Thirkeld died at Micheldever in 1531 or 32. He had a wife Joan, and two children, William and Avis. "Master William Waller" is one of the witnesses of his will and this perhaps points to Thirkeld being of some local importance. From time to time the name reappears in the Parish Registers, the last entries recording the burials of Elizabeth Thirkhole and Stephen Thirkhole in 1638, on August 8 and 11 respectively.

Deodatus Threlkeld was born in 1657. Therefore his father (the Durham clergyman) would be a contemporary, and possibly a child, of the Stephen Thirkhole last mentioned. He might quite well have been a friend of the Hunts of Popham, the intimacy between the families being continued after the removal of the Thirkholes (or Threlkelds) to Durham and Northumberland. "Parson" Threlkeld may have found a wife at Stratton among the French women brought over by Rachel, daughter of the Viscount de Ruvigny and first wife of the last Earl of Southampton.

CHAPTER XIX

LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY.

THE Victoria History of Hampshire states that the Church of Micheldever was included in king Edward the Elder's grant of the Hundred of Micheldever to the New Minster (about A.D. 900). No mention however is made of the Church in Domesday Book (A.D., 1086). (This does not prove that there was no Church here then : a number of Churches which undoubtedly existed at that time were omitted from the Domesday survey.)

In the "Taxatio" (rate-book) of Pope Nicholas in 1291 the Church at Micheldever was assessed at £66/13/4 and the Vicarage at £10/3/4. This means that the owners of the Great Tithes received about £66 annually and the Vicar about £10. Attached to the Church there was a "pension" of £3/6/8, besides six lbs. of wax (for candles) yearly. [The local landowner paid an annual due to the Monastery for the privilege of a priest to serve the village Church. Such payments were known as "pensions".]

In early days a large proportion of the Churches in England were under the control of Monasteries which collected the Great Tithes and used them for their own purposes. The Monasteries were in fact the Rectors. They either sent over a Monk in Priest's Orders to perform

the services and other spiritual duties or they paid a Chaplain or "Clerk" to perform them. This Chaplain would be the Vicar. He was simply the servant of the Abbey. He received a mere pittance in return for his services and could be dismissed at any time. Where this system was at work the Parish was practically withdrawn from the Bishop's control. As a remedy there grew up the custom of "ordaining Vicarages" that is, making the Parish Priest's appointment permanent (during good conduct) and subject to Institution by the Bishop, a definite income being assigned to the Vicar.

This "ordaining" of Vicarages began to come into force during the latter half of the twelfth century. It was only allowed where the total income of the benefice was large. In 1291 there were thirty-seven Vicarages in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, out of a total of 233 Churches and Micheldever was one (V.C.H.). The Great Tithes would seem to have been given to the Abbey of Hyde (Newminster) under the Will of Alfred but it was not until 1302 that the King granted formal licence to appropriate them, and the Vicarage was not "ordained" until 1308. It is possible that at some previous time a King or Pope had robbed the Abbey of the Great Tithes and with them rewarded a servant or favourite, putting him into the rich Rectory of Micheldever and thus taking the Benefice out of the hands of its lawful possessors. The last *Clerical Rector*, Archdeacon Hamulton, resigned in 1293/4, and the Rectory was restored to the Abbey in 1302. Then the Ordination of the Vicarage was brought about in 1308 and the Vicar made secure against undue interference on the part of the Abbey.

Under this arrangement the Vicar and his successors were entitled to "all the offerings and the revenues of the altars

of the Church of Micheldever with the Chapels of West Stratton, East Stratton, Northampton (Northington) and Popham, the mortuaries only excepted". (Mortuaries were gifts left by will to the parish Church in case there should possibly have been tithes or offerings forgotten.) "All tithes of wool, cheese, milk, pigs, geese, ovens, honey, apples of orchards or gardens, of all sorts of corn on the ground in the places enclosed at the time with quick hedges and with trenches except those of which certain religious persons and other Rectors for the time being had been accustomed to partake ; and the tithes of thistles, yet so that the number of acres without exceed not the five enclosed ones planted with thistles."

"Tithes of thistles" are interesting, and one would like to know why thistles were purposely grown, whether for any other purpose than carding wool. Further, the Vicar was entitled to "a tenth of the tithe of lambs, from all the places of which the rector of the Church of Micheldever partook : the whole of the tithe of hay coming from certain closes which belonged to the tenement of Simon of Micheldever (whose lands later on passed to the Stanesbys and the Bristows), except the meadow called Stunie Croft : the dwelling house and lands assigned to the Chantry of the Chapel of Popham : the tenth of the corn in the sheaves through the different open fields and plains distinct in the same Parish viz. of the two acres belonging to John Parris of Bagden, of the four acres belonging to Isabote le Hethe at Soursmere, of the seven acres belonging to the Rectory of Cattesbraine ; also of the tenths of corn in the sheaves from all and every the Crofts enclosed with quick hedges throughout all the Parish, the three Great Crofts belonging to Philip of Micheldever and the Croft belonging to John Calle of East Stratton only excepted : the tenths of hay

from all and every sorts of crofts enclosed throughout the whole Parish and likewise of the meadow belonging to the Rector and of the meadow belonging to William Butler though they were not enclosed (except the croft called Stunie Croft)".

The Vicar had to provide Chaplains for the daughter Churches or Chantries of East and West Stratton, Northington and Popham and also the necessary books, ornaments and vestments, together with seven boys' surplices (1).

The last clerical *Rector* of Micheldever was Robert de Hamulton. He held at the same time the Rectories of Embledon and Sawbridge and was also Archdeacon of York. To crown all, he was Chancellor to Edward I. (This parish therefore has the honour of having been connected with two Chancellors of England: Hamulton and Wriothesley). It was perhaps due to Hamulton's influence that Edward I visited Micheldever in 1285. He resigned the Rectory in 1293/4 and died at Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire in 1307.

For the following list of Incumbents the writer acknowledges with gratitude his indebtedness to the Rev. Canon F. T. Madge, late Rector of Stoke Charity.

Date of Induction.	*Rector.*	*Patron.*
	Robert de Hamulton, res. 1293/4.	
	Vicars.	
1316	Robert de Sandale.	The King.

Sandale was either half-brother or cousin of John de Sandale, Bishop of Winchester (1316-19), and it is related that while the Bishop was staying with him at Micheldever the Vicarage was burnt down. In 1317 the Vicar obtained leave of absence to enable him to go on a pilgrimage to the Monastery of St. Denys (in Paris) in fulfilment of a vow. One wonders whether the vow was made at the time of the fire.

(1) From a copy of "Ordination of the Vicarage of Micheldever" A.D. 1308, in the possession of the Earl of Northbrook.

1322	William Le Knyght exchanged from St. Faith, Winchester.	Abbot and Convent of Hyde.

In the same year he was permitted to leave his Benefice in order to visit the Pope on account of the irregularity of a wedding which he had celebrated.

1339	Thomas Hincrud, exchanges with	Abbot and Convent of Hyde.
1339	Robert de Lavyngtone, Rector of St. James Winchester.	,,
1349	Nicholas de Wamberge.	,,
1361	John de Chynham.	,,
1381	Stephen Gille, exchanges with	,,
1381	John Lene (Vicar of Minterne, Dorset). He exchanges with	
1386	Walter de Creston (Vicar of St. James, Shaftesbury). He exchanges with	
1391	William Smart (Vicar of Overton).	,,
1396	Thomas Lichpool.	,,
1413	Nicolas Lovitt.	,,
?	Thomas Smythe, res. 1451.	,,

In the Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. XXXI there is the following note :—Thomas Smythe, Vicar of Micheldever (resigned 1451) afterwards worked as Curate at Dunsfold, Surrey; appeared in 1455 before the Justices of the King's Bench to answer Edgar Chafyn, Clerk, touching a trespass and to answer John Strode, Clerk, touching a debt of 40 marks.

1451	John Deve.	Abbot and Convent of Hyde.
1455	Robert Tympany.	,,
1464	John Elyngham, Canon of St. Aadegund Monastery, Dover.	,,
?	Edward Hanyngton (res. 1493, with pension of £10).	,,
1493	Peter Boyle.	,,
1512	William Smythe.	,,
1543	John Chaundeler.	Thomas Wriothesley, Esq.
1556 ?	John Sherborne.	Earl of Southampton.

The tentative date last given would appear to be correct, a witness in a local law-suit in 1599 stating that Sherborne was Vicar for about 16 years.

1572	David Philpott.	Earl of Southampton.

There are no Institutions registered for the five succeeding Bishops and of the sixth (Bishop Andrewes), the Register is lost. But it appears from the Parish Register that "Mr. David Philpott, Vicar, was buried Sep. 28, 1616, and from the Composition Books that John White compounded for First Fruits, October 1616. Therefore there seems to be no gap between Philpott and

1616	John White.	Earl of Southampton.
1638	William Pyne.	,,

William Pyne was buried at Micheldever in 1658, so there appears to have been a 2 years interregnum.

1660	Edward Morey.	Earl of Southampton
1688	Samuel Swayne.	Lady Rachel Russell.
1721	John Imber.	,,
1735	Richard Harding.	Duke of Bedford.
1765	Abraham Smith.	,,
1773	Peter Smith.	The Bishop.
1797	George Chapman.	Duke of Bedford.
1814	Thomas Snow.	Sir Thomas Baring.
1816	Thomas Clarke.	,,
1870	William A. Whitestone.	Lord Northbrook.
1891	Waldegrave Bainbridge Bell.	Earl of Northbrook.
1898	George Alexander Johnstone.	,,
1912	James Hugh Bellhouse.	,,
1917	Alfred Barrow Milner.	,,

This gives a list of thirty eight Vicars from 1316 to the present time and there does not appear to be any gap in the record, except for 2 years between William Pyne and Edward Morey, 1658-60, an achievement which is probably very rare.

The following items from various Registers may fittingly find a place here :

1316, John de Mucheldevere, Priest, late Incumbent of the Church of St. Waleric without the Westgate, Winchester, was inducted to the Church of Chilcomb, near Winchester.

On Bishop de Sandale's death various sums of money were paid by his executors to members of his household "on account of robes in arrear and to enable them to return to their homes". Among these items is a payment of 40/- to John de Mucheldevere, Rector of Chilcomb, one of the Bishop's domestic Chaplains.

November 24, 1317. Letter to William de Mucheldevere, certifying that he was canonically promoted to the priesthood by Bishop Woodlock and to the subdiaconate and diaconate by Bishop John de Pontissara. Hugh, John, Richard and William, all of Micheldever, were promoted to the priesthood by Bishop Asserio at Bishop's Waltham

about 1322. Bishop Woodlock held ordinations in Micheldever Church between 1305 and 1316.

A stone Cross close to the School in Stratton Park marks the site of the old Stratton Church which was demolished in 1888 when the present fine Church was built by the munificence of the late and present Earls of Northbrook in memory of the first Baron Northbrook and Arabella Georgina, his wife. The Duke of Bedford's estate office in London has a copy of the Bishop's decree for establishing a Chapel of St. Bartholomew at Stratton in 1677. The present Church is dedicated to All Saints. There was of course a Chapel at Stratton as early as 1308, if not earlier. V. C. H. states that the Church has a "modern ring of bells". There is only one bell.

CHAPTER XX

MICHELDEVER CHURCH.

MICHELDEVER Church stands on rising ground to the west of the main street and is surrounded on the east and south sides by some fine lime trees. It is a curiosity in architecture and in the ugliness of its exterior probably has no rival.

The tower, in course of erection about 1544 (see p. 34) is a massive stone building, similar to, but less elaborate than, that at Soberton Church. The windows in the belfry have "four lights filled with pierced stone work of a very graceful appearance. In the heads of the lights are stone panels with various devices cut within circles. On the west side are I.H.S.; I.S.; I.O.P. and a W over a tun (see p. 35). On the south side there are no letters but a grotesque face, a three leaved flower and other emblems which cannot be deciphered. The circles on the north and east sides are blank". (V.C.H.)

There are six bells, inscribed as follows :—

1. J. Taylor and Co. Loughborough, MDCCCXCII.
2 and 3. do. do.
4. Tho. Perrey, Will. Fifield, C.W. Rob Cor 1703.
5. Same as 1.
6. Thomas Perrey and Will. Fifield, C.W. Rob Cor 1703.

C.W. on bells 4 and 6 stand for Church Wardens. The Cors were founders in Aldbourne, Wilts. Robert often cast bells in conjunction with his brother William.

On the floor under the tower lie four fragments of Purbeck marble, parts of a rectangular font (or fonts) of Norman date. Two of them were recently found in gardens in the village.

The north and south arches to the east of the tower are the oldest parts of the building, dating probably from about 1380, though V.C.H. credits them with being a century earlier.

The nave is octagonal. Tradition runs that the nave and chancel were destroyed by fire about 1806 and were rebuilt in the present style. The story is purely imaginary. Diligent search in the files of the Hampshire Chronicle of those days and, by the kindness of Lord Northbrook, in Sir Francis Baring's diary and note books, fails to reveal anything of the sort. The petition to the Bishop of Winchester with reference to the rebuilding makes no mention of any fire. It runs :—"The humble petition of the Rev. George Chapman, Vicar, and Wm. Dowden and Wm. Nevill, Churchwardens, etc. showeth that the Parish Church of Micheldever is a very ancient building and that the walls, roof, floor and seats are in a very ruinous situation and stand in need of very considerable repairs". As a result of the petition, permission was given to "take down any part of the present walls and rebuild the same and to strengthen, repair and add to them where necessary; and to take off the present old roof and to replace the same with a new roof, and to place a new floor and new seats or pews or to repair the present ones". This was to be done under the direction of Sir Francis Baring's architect, whose name is not mentioned, but who was probably

Dance. He was responsible for the alterations to Stratton House after its purchase by Sir Francis Baring, and he "restored" the Church of St. Bartholomew-the-Less, Smithfield, of which the nave is also octagonal.

The petition to the Bishop is dated November 18 and the faculty December 9, 1808 It will be noticed that the ground of the petition is not damage caused by fire, but the natural decay of a very old building. If there had been a fire, it is practically certain that the petition would have said so. The writer has been assured by old residents that charred beams in the chancel were visible when alterations were made in 1881. These may have been the result of an earlier fire.

It is curious that all guide books which refer to the Church, state categorically that the rebuilding in 1808-9 was due to the ravages of fire, and the Victoria County History perpetuates the error. A late Vicar of Popham edited the memoirs of his mother, Anna Maria Clarke, first wife of Thomas Clarke, Vicar of Micheldever (1816-1870). According to these Memoirs, Mrs. Clarke writes to a friend soon after her arrival in Micheldever and says: "The Church with its fine old Henry VII tower and Chancel (the body having been rebuilt by the late Sir Francis Baring) stands", etc. Sir Francis died in Sept. 1810 and Mrs. Clarke is writing between that date and 1821 i.e. within about ten years of the rebuilding. She makes no mention of any fire, which she almost certainly would have done had one occurred. This is much better evidence than any tradition which has grown since her days, though she makes a pardonable error with regard to the date of the tower. Mrs. Clarke is under the impression that the only portion rebuilt was the nave for she expressly excludes the tower and chancel. It is not clear whether she considers

MICHELDEVER CHURCH IN 1730

the Chancel to be contemporary with the tower. If so, it is possible that the whole Church was rebuilt about 1544. The Chancel is covered with plaster both inside and out, and so there is little clue to its date, as it has no windows except one in the east wall, and that is modern.

The following extract from the Antiquary, Vol. IV, p. 179 (Oct. 1881) may fittingly find a place here :—"The village church of Micheldever has just been reopened by Bishop McDougall. The works have consisted in the removal of the plaster aisles in the Chancel and rough-casting of the walls, and the substitution of a new pencilled roof ; the construction of a new organ chamber and chancel arch ; new mosaic floor, oak stalls, altar table and rail, choir seats, marble credence table, etc. In the nave the oak seats have been reconstructed, the gallery removed, and the fine old Perpendicular arch brought to light in the tower. There are some beautiful monuments. The excavations disclosed interesting remains of the ancient Church, showing specimens of the Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles : also remains of two Norman fonts, and of a Decorated stone reredos or screen". We should like to know what excavations were made and the whereabouts of the "interesting remains", especially of the decorated stone reredos or screen.

All efforts to unearth any picture of the Church as it was before 1808 proved fruitless until a tiny thumb-nail sketch was found on an estate map executed in 1730. The map was sent to Mr. George Alexander, of Farnham. He most kindly enlarged the sketch in pen and ink and produced the view given on the opposite page. Naturally so small a sketch as that on the map gave no details of windows, etc. and Mr. Alexander has exercised his discretion in the matter. But there is no reason to doubt that the 1730

sketch gives us the general outline of the Church as it then was. The present octagonal nave is peculiarly ugly outside but quite effective inside, though the plastered walls present a chilly appearance and greatly need the relief of colour, either in the form of pictures or wall-paintings.

The chancel is long and dark, and if it was not altogether rebuilt in 1808 it must have been raised and lengthened. The painted glass in the east window was given in memory of Francis Thornhill Baring, first Baron Northbrook, who died September 6, 1866.

In the chancel are monuments to various members of the Baring family—one by Flaxman. On the south wall hangs a large, faded flag, one of the few memorials of H. M. S. "Captain", the first ship to be fitted with turret guns. She was sent through the Bay of Biscay, on her trial trip, with many distinguished Admiralty officials, including the designer, on board. Meeting with heavy weather in the Bay she turned turtle and sank (September, 1870), only a few persons being saved. The Hon. Arthur Baring, second son of the first Earl of Northbrook and brother of the present peer, was a Midshipman serving on board at the time and he went down with his ship.

Beneath the altar are memorial stones recording the deaths of the following :—

1. Mrs. Pope, widow, sole daughter of Mr. William Pine, buried Jan. 15, 1669.

2. William Pine, aged about 73 years, who was Minister of Micheldever about twenty years and was buried July 22, 1658.

3. Edward Morey, Vicar of Micheldever and Rector of Kingsworthy, died Aug. 25, 1688, aged 77.

4. "Baro, son of Archibald Acheson, Knt. and Bat., Secretarie and Counseller of State to King Charles for Scotland, and of ye Lady Martha Acheson, daughter of John More, Esq., Clerk of his Mats. Signet for England. Hic sepult. 18 Julii, 1637, Aet. 20. Mense".

This infant figures in the Church register as "James Acheson, Esq.". In the previous month there is an entry- "Charles, son of Patrick Acheson" was baptized. The name Acheson occurs nowhere else in the register and as Baro, alias James, died in his second month, it is not unnatural to infer that the two entries refer to one and the same person. If this is the fact, he seems to have had the name of Charles in addition to James and Baro. This latter is another curiosity in the way of Christian names and we are reminded of the Clerkes again, because there seems to be an error somewhere, either on the tombstone or in the register or in Debrett. The latter says that Archibald Acheson, ancestor of the present Earl of Gosford, died in 1634, which he could hardly have done if he had an infant son in 1637. Further, the baptism entry says that Charles was the son of *Patrick* Acheson. Sir Archibald's eldest son and heir was a Patrick.

The explanation may be that both the Achesons—father and son—were staying with their wives at Stratton with Lord Southampton and that a son was born to each of them in June, and that Sir Archibald's son died in the following month. This is possible but highly improbable and it does not get over the difficulty raised by Debrett's statement that Sir Archibald died in 1634, three years before the birth of his son!

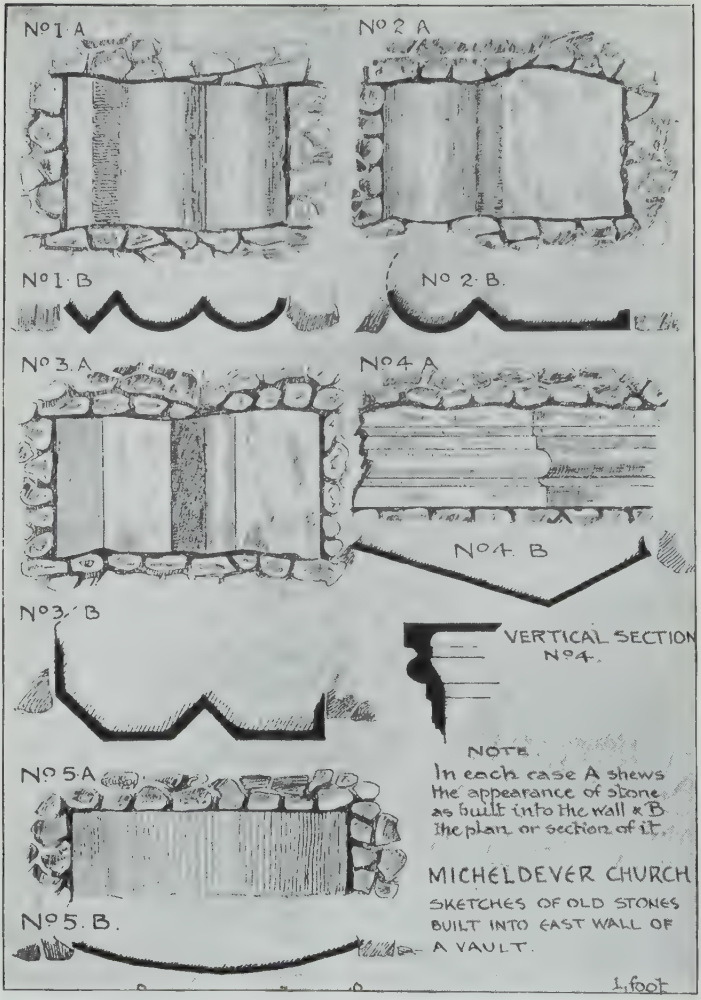
5. "Henry Charles, son of the Rev. Joseph D'Arcy Sirr and Elizabeth his wife, born at Dublin Castle, Sept. 1818, died at Stratton Jan. 12, 1820". Perhaps Mr. Sirr

was Curate at Stratton. He published a long sermon which he preached there on the death of George III.

There are no Brasses remaining in the Church, but the Stowe MS. has left a record of one which was in situ about 1700. "On a flat grave stone in ye South Isle is a large portraiture of a woman under a canopy, and a brass verge upon which is this inscription ; 'Hic jacet Margeria de Knyghton quondam Matris Thomae Episcopi Dunelmensis quae ... 1355, Cujus Animae pitietur Deus. Amen.' " (Here lies Margery de Knyghton late Mother of Thomas, Bishop of Durham, who (died) 1355. On whose soul may God have mercy. Amen). Matris is a mistake for Mater. Her son Thomas was evidently Thomas de Hatfield who was Bishop of Durham from 1345 to 1382. He was one of the most famous of the Prince Bishops. We are left guessing as to whether Margery lived at Micheldever and, if not, why she should have been buried here, and whether it was not the Bishop himself who placed this, probably costly, Brass to her memory, and whether she came originally from Knyghton or Niton in the Isle of Wight ; and who was the miscreant who stole her Brass.

Under the nave is the family vault of the Bristows and there are doubtless other vaults there. But the floor was boarded over in 1881 and there is no record of any inscribed stones below the boarding.

Under the stoke hole is a vault known as the Popham vault. The brick stair-way which leads to it runs beneath the font. When a new boiler was being fitted in 1917 the vault was opened. It contains seven leaden coffins. One is inscribed "F.D. 1706", another "Mrs. T. Threlkeld 1780"; another "James Hunt 1741"; another "Jane Gividott (or Guidott) 1708". "L.H. 1721" appears on a child's coffin which is about 2ft. 6 in length. There are


No 1. A
No 2. A
No 1. B
No 2. B.
No 3. A
No 4. A
No 4. B
No 3. B
VERTICAL SECTION No 4.
NOTE.
In each case A shews the appearance of stone as built into the wall & B the plan or section of it.
No 5. A
MICHELDEVER CHURCH
SKETCHES OF OLD STONES BUILT INTO EAST WALL OF A VAULT.
No 5. B.
1 foot

OLD STONE IN VAULT

two other coffins without any names or dates, one of them being of enormous size : 7 ft. 4 in long, 3 ft .wide and 2 ft. 6 high.

There is no record either in the Micheldever register or in that at Popham, of the burial of Mrs. Thomas Threlkeld nor are there any entries to correspond to "F.D. 1706" or "L.H. 1721".

The late Mr. N. C. H. Nisbett inspected the vault and reported as follows. "We entered through an opening on the Western side in the arched brickwork. This formed a barrel vault running North and South and it, as well as all the walls except the Eastern one, appeared to have been altered or rebuilt at a comparatively modern date. The bricks are all of modern thickness, while the Eastern wall is constructed of rough rubble of various kinds but principally flint, with fragments of old stone work built into it. These fragments are evidently portions of various architectural features. They are of five kinds as shown by the sketches.

"No. 1. The two examples of this, consist of a stone showing a surface of 10 in. by 7. It has two shallow convex mouldings side by side and a sharp angular projection at one side. From the nature of the work it may be considered to be Norman, of the 12th. century. It is somewhat difficult to decide exactly to what feature it originally belonged as it is not clear whether the angular portion formed the outside of a group of mouldings, or whether the convex pattern was repeated beyond it. Possibly it was part of a series of mouldings in the enrichment of a pier or even a portion of a wall string. The mouldings themselves are not unlike the sections of some of the richer arches when decorated with chevron or zigzag

ornament, but how the jointing of such a piece would be arranged is not easily determined.

"No. 2. This shows a piece of stone which evidently formed one course of an angle on which a shaft was worked. The shaft was about 4½ in. in diameter as shown by the sketch. Such a feature was not confined to any particular period of architecture, so unless there is some additional evidence to assist in deciding the date, it is impossible to be quite sure as to this. Probably, however, it is of the same date as the fragment first described. It may have formed an angle column at the side of the entrance door or even of the Chancel arch. Such a position is indicated by the dotted portion of the sketch.

"No. 3. This fragment evidently occupied a somewhat similar position to that last mentioned, except that the small attached shaft was of octagonal instead of circular shape. Although the octagon was certainly in great favour at a much later date, it was by no means unknown in Norman times, especially during the period of transition from the Romanesque to the Early English style. It is not unusual to find the columns of a 12th century Nave arcade circular and octagonal.

"No. 4. This piece of moulding suggests that the octagonal shape was used at Micheldever for some of the columns which were at least larger than the small one (No. 3) already referred to, since this piece has one side of nine inches in length still unbroken. There is no evidence that it was not originally longer and, if so, it may have formed part of an octagonal column corresponding in size to the circular ones, of which remains exist in the wall of the vault as shown by the fragments next illustrated. An octagon with a side of nine inches would be about twenty two inches across and this would be obviously much too large

for the small octagonal column already referred to (No. 3), of which the shaft is not more than six inches and its cap might have a top member of about fourteen inches.

"No. 5.T hese are evidently portions of circular columns and from careful examinations and measurement it appears that the columns of which they once formed parts had a diameter of about thirty-one inches. This is not an uncommon dimension for the Nave piers of a moderate-sized Church of Transition Norman date. It is quite possible that No. 4. may have been part of the capital of a pier of this size. In this connection it may be of interest to draw attention to some details of the moulding (No. 4). It will be noticed that the topmost member has a square angular edge. This is always the sign of an early "Abacus", as the top member of a capital is called. In the classic capital of Roman times the abacus was square in plan, as well as in section, as best adapted to the shape of the mass of masonry which rested upon it. This was equally true of early Norman work which followed the Romanesque arrangement. But as soon as it was found convenient to splay the angles or chamfer the edges of the arches and ultimately to enrich them with mouldings upon the splayed plane, the angular projections at each corner of a square were useless and therefore these too followed the shape of the masonry which they supported, and so became first octagonal and eventually circular in plan. But as already mentioned, the classic abacus was square in section and this shape it retained for some time, until, with the variation of its plan, it gradually became chamfered and then rounded. So here again the square edge of this piece of abacus supports the theory that the work of the earlier Church on this site was probably of Norman workmanship.

"The masonry of the spiral staircase of the Church tower

was also examined. The tower was built about 1544 and in the flint rubble of the walls are several pieces of old stone work similar to those already seen in the vault. This seems to suggest that in the 16th century the Church was rebuilt and use was made of materials from the older Church, which had either become ruined or was perhaps pulled down in order to provide for a larger building."

(Another theory is advanced, in fear and trembling, on page 35.)

CHAPTER XXI

THE CHURCH REGISTERS AND PLATE.

THE Church registers (first four books) contain entries between 1538-1576, 1538-1683, 1540-1721 and 1684-1765. Another book contains records of baptisms and burials between 1766-1812, and two other volumes the marriages between 1754 and 1812.

The compulsory keeping of Church registers began in 1538. Most of the early registers were of paper and consequently great numbers of them have perished from one cause or another. In 1597 it was ordered that, for the future, registers were to be of parchment and that parchment copies were to be made of the old paper registers. Dr. Cox in his Parish Registers of England states that "it is exceedingly rare to find an undoubted original register beginning in 1538; fully 95 per cent of registers which go back to that date are copies made towards the end of Elizabeth's reign". The Micheldever registers, therefore, must rank amongst the "exceedingly rare", for we have both the original paper register beginning in Dec. 1538 and also a copy of it, made on parchment somewhere about 1600. We have also a parchment copy of the Stratton register but not the original. The original (Michel-

dever) paper register consists of 22 folios and 9 stumps and measures 15 in.$\times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in. It is in a remarkably good state of preservation. At some time or other it has been bound up within a sheet of old Church MS containing "Sequences", which in turn is covered by a portion of an Antiphonarium. The latter may possibly be of 13th century date. The register begins :—

" This book was begun in the yere of our Lord 1538.

1538. In the yere of our Lord God Mle. cccccxxxviiith and in the yere of our sovrand Lord Kyng Henry the VIIIth. By the auctorite and comyssion of the most excellent henry by the grace of God Kyng of England and ffrance defensour of the fayth lord of yreland and yn erth supreme hed of the chyrche of Englonde charge and comande all myn yniuctions to be observed and kept apon all such payne penalties which ys yn the yniuctions begyning at the x daye of November yn the yere afore specyfyed."

The first entry records the burial of Robert Canterbury on December 13, 1538.

In 1653, under the tyranny of the Puritans, when even the possession of a Prayer Book was visited with severe penalties, the Clergy were ordered to give up their registers to laymen called "Parish Registers". All births, marriages and burials were to registered by these new officials who were entitled to charge a fee of 12d. for a marriage entry and 4d. for each entry of birth and burial. The old state of things was restored in 1660.

The following description of the Church Plate at Micheldever and Stratton is taken, by his very kind permission, from Canon Braithwaite's "Church Plate of Hampshire".

EAST STRATTON CHALICE

At Micheldever :—

Chalice, silver, bowl plain, unusually large, straight sided and with turned-over lip, the stem thick with filleted band as knop, and a moulded foot ; height 8½ in. ; weight 21 oz., 5 dwt. ; Marks, London Assay, new standard for 1702, and a blurred mark (probably as Jackson, Eng. Goldsmiths, (1702-3) for the maker. Inscription :—"The gift of ye Rt. Honble Rachel Lady Russell, 1703" (1).

There is also a silver service consisting of a Chalice, 7 3/4 in. high. weight 9 oz., 10 dwt. ; a Paten on a foot, 7 in. in diameter, weight 9 oz. 6 dwt. ; a Flagon, tankard shaped, 12 in. high, weight 24 ozs. 17 dwt. and two Alms plates 9 in. in diameter, weight 25 ozs. 14 dwts ; all plain, engraved with sacred monogram within rays and of the London assay for 1866 with the maker's name E.B. and G.B.

Inscription on all these pieces :—"Presented by Arabella Lady Northbrook for the use of the Church of Micheldever, in memory of her husband Francis Thornhill, Ist. Lord Northbrook, Sept. 6, 1866.+".

At Stratton :—

Chalice, silver gilt (A secular cup). The bowl is oviform, deeply incised with leaves and flowers in outline (lilies, gilly flowers, etc.) and a plain unfilled shield, all on a very finely matted ground ; below these, six other conventional flowers, with leafage, cover the base of the cup ; the stem is of the baluster form and has a band of interrupted lines on its knop. The foot is sloping and ornamented in the same style as the bowl, and has a wide ovolo moulding at its edge. Height 7½ in. : weight 9oz., 8dwts. ; Marks, London Assay for 1603, and an eagle displayed (as Cripps O.E.P. 1597). Inscription :—"Jon. Geale, M.A. Trin. Coll. Oxon, 1709."

(1) A possible occasion for the gift is related on p. 127.

This charmingly decorated cup resembles that at North Waltham. There is a similar cup at Trinity College, Oxford. The latter bears the same maker's mark "an eagle displayed" and possesses its original cover.

Paten, silver, with traces of gilding. Plain with a moulded wire edge and a low closed-in-foot. Diam. 5 in.; weight 3oz. 12 dwts. This has evidently been gilded to use with cup of 1603 after the loss or exchange of the cover of that vessel; it bears signs of much wear.

Paten, silver, plain with a moulded wire edge and a moulded foot. Diam. 7 1/4 in.; weight 9oz. 16 dwts. Flagon, silver, plain, tankard-shaped, with a wire belt at the base of the drum, a domed and moulded foot, large S shaped handle with a drop piece at the joint, and doubly domed cover, with openwork scroll and husk thumbpiece. A fine flagon. Height 9 1/4 in. weight 29oz., 9 dwts.

Alms plate-silver, plain, with a moulded wire edge. Diam. 7 1/2 in.; weight 8oz. 6 dwts. Marks on all the above-London Assay, new standard for 1713, and Crown, L.E. and rose for Samuel Lea (as Cripps O.E.P. 1716).

The larger Paten, Flagon and Alms Plate are engraved with the crest of 'a bull statant, ducally crowned, ringed and roped proper'; also with the original weights of the vessels.

With regard to the donor of the Chalice, silver gilt, dated 1603, given by "Jon. Geale" to the Church at Stratton in 1709, there was a John Geale, son of Thomas Geale, of Alton, Hants, Gent., who matriculated at Trin. Coll. Oxon. March 31, 1701, aged 16; B.A. 1704; M.A. 1707. He became Vicar of Bishop's Lydiard, Somerset, 1714. In all probability he is identical with the donor of the cup.

Perhaps his first Curacy was at Stratton and he gave the cup as a parting gift.

The crest on the larger Paten, Flagon and Alms plate at Stratton is that of the Earls of Southampton. The vessels were probably presented by Lady Rachel Russell.

CHAPTER XXII

ODDS AND ENDS.

A Deed dated September 26, 1800 records an exchange of land and houses between Francis, Duke of Bedford, and George Chapman, Vicar of Micheldever, by which the latter parted with the old Vicarage and secured a new one. The former Vicarage is described as "an old messuage, part timber and tiled and part thatched, with a garden containing together 2 r. 10 p. which is the only glebe land belonging to the Vicarage". There is no reason for doubting that the old Vicarage stood on or about the site of the dwelling house to which is attached, at present, a grocer's shop, immediately north of the Churchyard wall. The house which the Duke exchanged for the old vicarage is described as "a brick and tiled freehold messuage or tenement, in good and substantial repair, and a garden containing together 1r. 4p., formerly in occupation of Diana Wise and now of the said George Chapman, and also a piece of garden and Meadow now laid to the same tenement and containing 3a. 2r. 2p., which tenement hath been lately in part rebuilt and the whole now put into complete repair and in every respect is more commodious and convenient than the present Vicarage and is situated within

a short distance of the Church not exceeding 300 yards." The old Vicarage was valued at £8 a year and the new one at £18. (In 1799 the old Vicarage is stated to be the residence of the Steward and in the occupation of Thomas Kersley.) The new Vicarage was considerably added to in 1811 and a school built for the accommodation of Mr. Chapman's pupils. Reference to estate books and maps shows that it stood about the middle of the (1919) Vicarage drive. To the new Vicarage came the Rev. Thomas Clarke in 1816. His wife, Anna Maria, describes it and the School as "grouping pleasantly together". (The school stood just behind "Meadow View", opposite the entrance to Southbrook House.) But in 1821 (according to Mrs. Clarke's Memoirs) it was thought "desirable to pull down the Vicarage and erect a new one upon a somewhat different site" and on February 6, 1821 Mrs. Clarke has a note : "Today the foundation stone of our new building is being laid". In Sept. 1920 this Vicarage was sold to Mr. R. C. Jonas, and another—much smaller—built on a site to the south of the Manor farm.

SOUTHBROOK HOUSE.

This stands close to the site of the old house of the Bristows. As before mentioned there is no record of what happened to the house after the Bristows sold it to the Bedford family in 1778. But an estate survey in 1799 mentions at Southbrook "a large building, brick and tile, in five tenements with gardens to each, John Sackeley renting one, and the overseers the other four". This, no doubt, is the immediate forerunner of the present building but whether an actual part of the old Bristow house or built out of the materials of the old house it is impossible to say. At any rate, it seems to have given

place to another, the present house, some twenty seven years later. For within the cover of one of the Church registers there is the record of a Vestry held in the Church on December 28, 1826, Sir Thomas Baring in the Chair. The Vestry "resolved that a house and premises suited to the purposes of a poor house be provided. Sir Thomas Baring having stated that he had erected a building and other accommodation calculated for such object and that he was willing to let the united parishes of Micheldever and East Stratton have the same at a rent of £1 per annum, it was resolved that the same be accepted". It may reasonably be concluded, judging by its age and internal arrangements, that the present Southbrook House is the building which Sir Thomas Baring erected and that it dates, therefore, from about 1826. It is no longer used by the overseers as a Poor house.

Amongst other tenements existing in 1799 we find in an estate book—"Morrant's tenement. The buildings consist of a large cottage and butcher's shop, timber and thatch, a barn, stable, cow house and hog sties in good repair. A garden, walled-in, etc. In the occupation of Richard Morrant". This building is the present exceedingly picturesque butcher's shop, now the property of Mr. W. C. Cracknell.

The half-timbered cottages, in one of which "Granny" Whatmore lives. were known in 1799 as "Bailey's tenement".

In the middle of the Crease, where the tree now stands, William Crowcher had a small cottage and shoe-maker's shop, with a small garden (6 perches). On his death the holding was abolished for the public convenience.

John Moody was the village smith and had a large cottage, timber and thatch, hovel and pigsty, with a good blacksmith's shop, brick and tile in good repair.

Mary Neal also had a blacksmith's shop, timber and tiled, with a pent house, built on the waste, in occupation of John Waterman.

Sir William Heathcote was paying £2/14/9 a year for the privilege of water from the Micheldever estate for the use of his farm called Stoke Charity.

It appears from a description of the Duke of Bedford's Hampshire estate in 1766 that St. John's Hospital (Winchester) held the freehold of 17 acres in Southbrook and William Fifield 87 acres, and Mary Gauntlett 116 acres, both in Weston. Mary Gauntlett was a widow and her farm house was the old one at Weston which is now divided into four. She was succeeded by Colonel Christopher Gauntlett who sold his holding to the Duke before 1799

A 1730 map of the estate gives Sloe Lane as the name of the road which runs from the Crease to Borough ; the Crease itself is called the Cross—no doubt on account of the cross roads ; what we now call Duke street was then Duck street—a very fitting name, at least in the winter. Winchester road was Handford or Hawthorn lane. Its ugly modern nick-name of "Gin Hill" was probably due to the wit of some wag who thus noted its contiguity to Sloe Lane!

The following details of farms are recorded in 1799 in a survey of the estate.

"Manor farm. George Kersley tenant. Rent £454. Total acreage 653. This is a very fine farm and extremely well-managed by the present tenant. He has great merit in chalking his land and every possible encouragement should be given him by way of assisting him in the expence. There is an ice house on this farm belonging to the Mansion House at Stratton". The farm is now (1923) in the occupation and possession of Mr. Morris Wells. In 1799 the

farm of 653 acres lay in 24 portions ; in 1775 it consisted of 332 acres in 206 portions!

"Borough farm. Tenants : executors of the late George Kersley. Rent £357. Total acreage 991. A very fine farm capable of great improvement. The distant barn should be enlarged and if a small cottage in two tenements for a carter and shepherd, a stable and fold yard were made in that situation and a plantation to afford shelter for stock, the farm would be worth more than £600 per annum. The executors do not reside at the farm which in so large a concern ought not to be allowed on a future bargain. The watermeads lie very convenient and are very valuable but are limited as to the command of water, being allowed only the use of the stream for flooding on every Red Letter day. The tenants are allowed to cut two acres yearly of Baisley coppice, too large a proportion in succession, and in the next lease only 1a. 2r. should be allowed to be cut in every year. There is very little timber in it and small and unthrifty and should be taken down". In 1799 the 991 acres lay in 22 portions ; in 1775 the farm consisted of 524 acres in 211 portions! The farm is now in the occupation and possession of Mr. John Pain.

"Sheep House farm. Thomas Dowden, tenant. Rent £358. Total acreage 961. The buildings consist of a very old farmhouse, etc., brick and tile, in a very ruinous and bad state of repair. A very good farm, in good condition and well-managed, although there is a great deal of poor land". In 1799 the 961 acres lay in 25 lots ; in 1775 the farm consisted of 465 acres in 184 lots.

Northbrook House now stands on the site of the old buildings but most of the land has passed to Northbrook farm, owned and occupied by Mr. J. Falconer, O.B.E.

"Warren farm. Robert Stone, tenant. (Also in 1775).

Rent £145. Acreage 608. A capital farm house, brick and tile, kitchen, parlour, back house, dairy and pantry, three chambers, servants room and garrets. Also a lime kiln on the Down. Consists of very poor land but it is most shamefully managed. The tenant holds it at present for less than half what would be a fair rent for it. His present rent, tithe free, scarcely exceeds 4/- per acre and yet from his wretched mode of farming and the ill-condition of the land it is a matter of surprise that he can pay his rent at all. An industrious tenant would make an ample return at the valuation (suggested) which, tithe free, averages about 9/6 an acre." In 1799 the acreage was 608 in 17 lots ; in 1775 it was 457 in 16 lots. This farm, known in 1730 as Godden's Down Warren farm, was then held by John Stanbrook, 465 acres at a rent of £60. Warren and Weston farms are now the property of Mr. John Nicoll who resides at the Warren.

"Weston farm. William Dowden, tenant. Rent £469. Acreage 1086. A capital and excellent farm house, brick and tile, kitchen, parlour, back kitchen, dairy, pantry and good cellars. Four bedchambers and two garrets. Another old farm house, late Gauntletts, timber, part tiled, part thatched, in the occupation of William Dowden Junior, with a dove house, brick and tile, and a garden containing 2a. 16p.

"This is a very capital farm and certainly capable of great improvement and would derive great advantage from as many of the buildings being removed from Gauntletts' farm as would form at a distant part of the farm. a cottage in two tenements for a carter and a shepherd, a good barn and stable and a fold, which would tend greatly to the improvement of the land, which at this time lies too far from home to receive a due return in manure for its pro-

duce. This being effected, more of the upper Down covered with furze might be broken up to advantage. The whole of the upper part of the farm should be chalked. It is at present well-managed and the tenant keeps upwards of 800 sheep upon it. The abstracting cottages from being in future included in farm bargains is strongly recommended and adding a good garden to each is essential to the comfort and convenience of the occupiers".

The farm in 1799 consisted of 38 lots ; in 1775 it was broken up thus :—William Bailey, 223 acres in 213 lots ; Mary Day, 85 acres in 75 lots ; Richard Tilliard, Esq., 71 acres in 62 lots ; Col. Gauntlett 118 acres in 56 lots ; Widow Fifield 88 acres in 54 lots ; John Archer, 52 acres in 33 lots. Mr. J. R. Nicoll is the present tenant of Weston farm.

East Stratton. In 1775 there were 14 freehold and tenant farmers of whom Robert Moody of the Manor farm was the largest holder with 289 acres in 162 portions. In 1799 these holdings appear to have become merged into three :—

New farm : John Sawkins, tenant. Rent £339. Acreage 503.

Upper farm : Henry Whitear, tenant. Rent £303. Acreage 422.

Bradley farm : Benjamin Kersley, tenant. Rent £152. Acreage 423. A note with regard to this farm runs :—"If the tenant did justice to the farm and himself he would find the present rent very easy. By the present state of the land he appears very negligent and it is to be presumed makes but a bare subsistance".

Mr. Charles Pain now farms both East Stratton farm and Bradley, and Mr. A. E. Skevington manages the Home farm.

"West Stratton farm : Mary Kersley, widow, tenant. Rent £306. Acreage 656. Farm house of an old construc-

tion, brick and tile, kitchen, two parlours, back kitchen, dairy, pantry, cellars, five chambers, a servant's room and no garrets." Richard Fifield held 30 acres at West Stratton at a rent of 2/- ; in 1775 William Fifield held 155 acres.

Mr. W. W. Baylis is now in occupation of the farm.

"New Down: Susanna Pern, tenant. Rent £232. Acreage 719. There is a great deal of poor land and the tenant is too much disposed to sow the land in a greater proportion than it ought to be ; it would pay her better if less of the Down land were in tillage and more of the poorest parts of the farm either in sainfoin or laid down with artificial grasses. Some limit as to cropping upon this estate in general, as well as here, would be highly proper and useful." Mr. A. Whistler is now the occupier and owner.

In 1730 the land behind Borough farm, stretching about as far south as the Borough Down farm (not then existing) was called the West Common Field ; further south still was Micheldever Sheep Down. From the Crease to Basely Coppice, bounded on the east by Winchester road and on the west by a continuation of the Manor farm-road (through the fields), was the Middle Common Field. On the east of Winchester road was the Cow Down Common Field and on the east of this again was Micheldever Cow Down reaching to the Highway. Immediately east of the (recently sold) Vicarage there were certain enclosures, and east of them lay the Ridge Common Field.

Where now there is a pond on the other side of the Highway at the end of Winchester road there was also a barn called Hogbourn Barn.

Close to Micheldever Wood was Wolvern Croft, further west was Lower Freethwood Piece and south of this Upper Freethwood Piece.

Starting opposite the house of the Coopers (p. 138) a road or path ran westwards, crossing Weston Down road and continuing at least as far as Hunton Common Field. It was known as Token Way or Toking Way or Tribute Way and was evidently very old, as it is mentioned in the Deeds of Hyde Abbey in the twelfth century. The writer is not able to account for the name. Here and there short sections of the path can still be traced.

In 1730 there was a patch of land divided into ten enclosures, lying on the north side of the Andover-Basingstoke road, and in the occupation of various persons living at *Weston*!

This record has the year 1800 as the latest limit of time, except where convenience has ruled otherwise. To attempt the local history of the last 123 years would have overburdened both the book and the writer.

So here we make an end.

HERBERT CLARKE, PRINTER, 338, RUE SAINT-HONORÉ, PARIS.

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'Micheldever—
Northbrook and
Southbrook.

From an estate map
of about 1757.

A The Wriothesley-Stainsby-Bristow House
B. The Cooper-Whitaker House